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MARXIST-LENINIST PHILOSOPHY

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Diagrams, charts, illustrations for students of Marxist-Leninist theory

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS

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Diagrams, tables,
illustrations
for students
of
Marxist-Leninist
theory

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS

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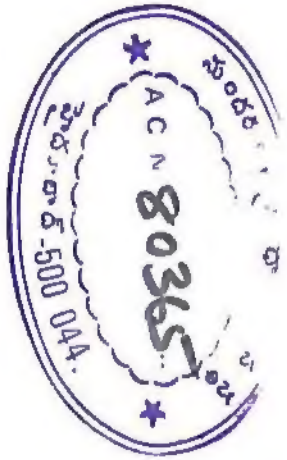
МАРКСИСТСКО-ЛЕНИНСКАЯ ФИЛОСОФИЯ
Схемы, таблицы, иллюстрации в помощь
изучающим марксистско-ленинскую теорию

На английском языке



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In Memory of G.V.N. R

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ACADEMICIAN VICTOR AFANASIEV,
USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,
AUTHOR OF PHILOSOPHY MANUALS
FOR FOREIGN READERS

Dear reader,

This is a somewhat unconventional aid in Marxist-Leninist philosophy, expressed in diagrams, tables and illustrations.

Textbooks and manuals usually present the Marxist-Leninist philosophy by spelling out its laws, categories, principles and propositions in verbal language. This is only natural, for without such a verbal account it is impossible to convey the depth and versatility of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy. As for this album, which uses the language of diagrams, tables and illustrations, it will help to present a more graphic and convincing picture of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy, especially against the background of and in conjunction with fundamental propositions by Marx, Engels and Lenin. Thus, at the beginning of the book we find the classical definition by Engels of the basic question of philosophy and its aspects, followed by a simple and convincing diagram illustrating that proposition. And so page after page. Almost every proposition of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy is expressed in graphic terms.

The diagrams show the main forms of materialism and idealism, their leading representatives from antiquity to our day, the main stages in the development of dialectics, and contain a great deal of other material.

Of great interest is the diagram showing the functions of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy—world-outlook, methodological, revolutionary-transformative and ideological.

The charts, tables and illustrations reflect the structure of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy, with propositions on the Leninist stage in the development of philosophy and its creative nature.

None of the major propositions of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy has been overlooked in this album, be it Lenin's definition of matter, the forms of its existence, consciousness, its origins and essence, the categories of materialist dialectics, etc. The Marxist-Leninist philosophy is being illustrated consistently, chapter by chapter, with the use of diverse forms. These include quotations from Marx, Engels and Lenin, diagrams, tables and illustrations. Many propositions are not simply illustrated, but elaborated, supplemented and concretised.

There is no need for a detailed analysis of this visual aid: the reader will judge for himself. We hope that the album will facilitate the study of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy, bring it to the notice of a wide readership, and help to spread the scientific, Marxist-Leninist world outlook.

INTRODUCTION

Chapter

Every true philosophy is the intellectual quintessence of its time.

Karl Marx

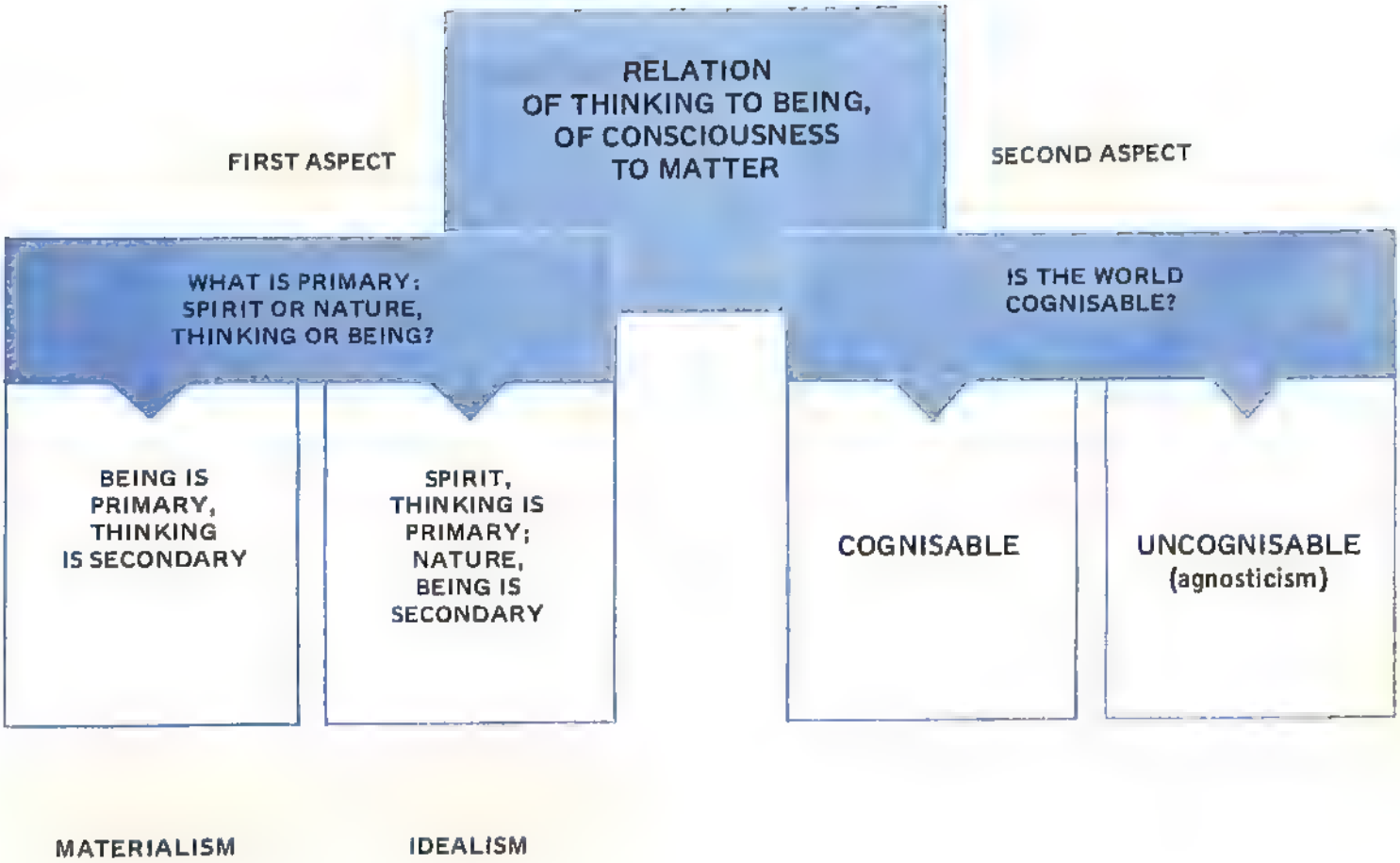
PHILOSOPHY, ITS SUBJECT AND ROLE IN THE SOCIETY

16

BASIC QUESTION OF PHILOSOPHY AND ITS SOLUTION

The great basic question of all philosophy, especially of more recent philosophy, is that concerning the relation of thinking and being...
The answers which the philosophers gave to this question split them into two great camps. Those who asserted the primacy of spirit to nature and, therefore, in the last instance, assumed world creation in some form or other ... comprised the camp of idealism. The others, who regarded nature as primary, belong to the various schools of materialism...
But the question of the relation of thinking and being has yet another side: in what relation do our thoughts about the world surrounding us stand to this world itself? Is our thinking capable of the cognition of the real world? Are we able in our ideas and notions of the real world to produce a correct reflection of reality?.. The overwhelming majority of philosophers give an affirmative answer to this question...
In addition there is yet a set of different philosophers—those who question the possibility of any cognition, or at least of an exhaustive cognition, of the world.

Frederick Engels


RELATION
OF THINKING TO BEING,
OF CONSCIOUSNESS
TO MATTER
FIRST ASPECT
SECOND ASPECT
WHAT IS PRIMARY:
SPIRIT OR NATURE,
THINKING OR BEING?
IS THE WORLD
COGNISABLE?
BEING IS
PRIMARY,
THINKING
IS SECONDARY
SPIRIT,
THINKING IS
PRIMARY;
NATURE,
BEING IS
SECONDARY
COGNISABLE
UNCOGNISABLE
(agnosticism)
MATERIALISM
IDEALISM

MAIN FORMS OF IDEALISM

PLATO (5th-4th centuries BC)
THOMAS AQUINAS (13th century)
HEGEL (19th century)

NEO-THOMISM (19th-20th centuries)
NEO-HEGELIANISM (19th-20th centuries)

BERKELEY (18th century)
FICHTE (18th-19th centuries)
HUME (18th century)
MACH (19th-20th centuries)

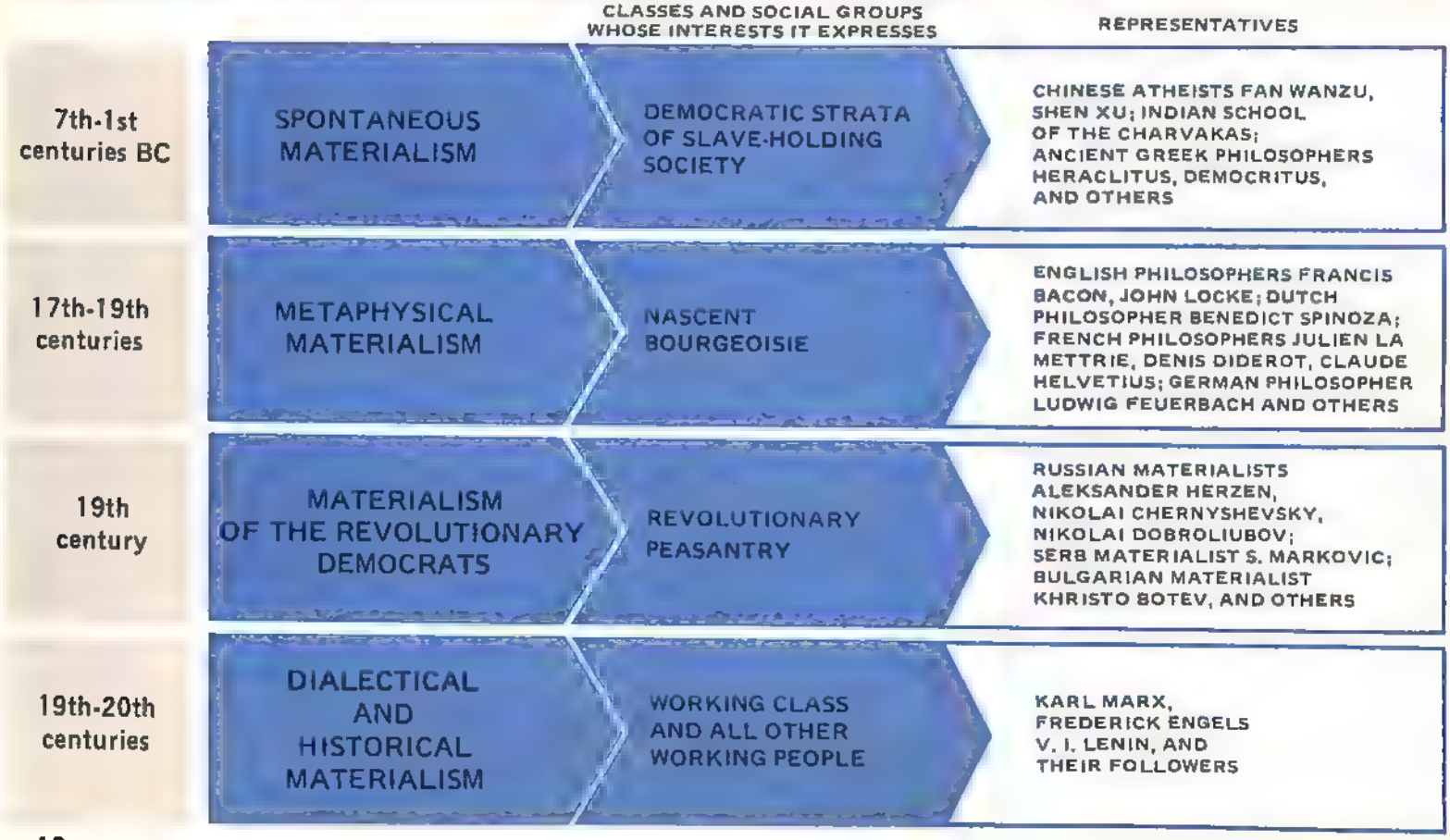
EXISTENTIALISM, PRAGMATISM, NEO-POSITIVISM, etc. (20th century)

The world is the non-ego created by the ego, said Fichte. The world is Absolute Idea, said Hegel. The world is will, said Schopenhauer... One must be blind not to perceive the identical idealist essence under these various verbal cloaks.

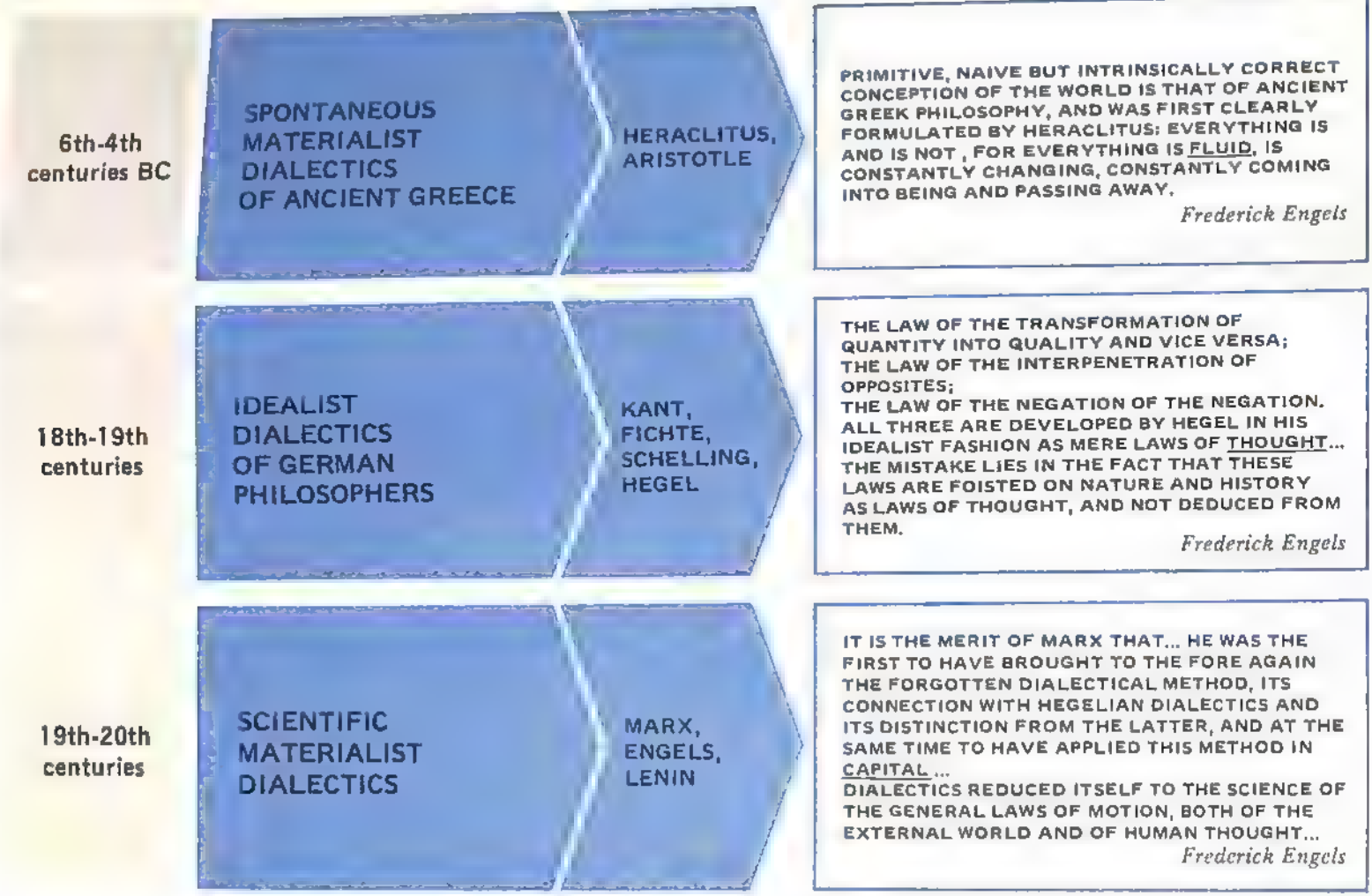
V. I. Lenin

HISTORICAL FORMS OF MATERIALISM

> Materialism ... underwent a series of stages of development... With each epoch-making discovery ... it has to change its form...
>
> *Frederick Engels*



MAIN DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF DIALECTICS



Chapter

2

EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MARXIST PHILOSOPHY

The philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways: the point is to change it.

Karl Marx

Marx's philosophical materialism alone has shown the proletariat the way out of the spiritual slavery in which all oppressed classes have hitherto languished.

V. I. Lenin

Materialism includes partisanship, so to speak, and enjoys the direct and open adoption of the standpoint of a definite social group in any assessment of events.

V. I. Lenin

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CREATION OF DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM AS A REVOLUTION IN PHILOSOPHY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-POLITICAL CONDITIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTRADICTIONS OF CAPITALISM AND ORIGINATION OF THE PROLETARIAT'S CLASS STRUGGLE

THEORETICAL SOURCES

CLASSICAL GERMAN PHILOSOPHY:
HEGEL'S IDEALIST DIALECTICS
FEUERBACH'S PHILOSOPHICAL MATERIALISM

PREREQUISITES IN NATURAL SCIENCE

THREE GREAT DISCOVERIES OF THE 19TH CENTURY:
DISCOVERY OF THE CELL,
THE LAW OF CONSERVATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF ENERGY,
THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THOSE OF THE PROLETARIAT ABOVE ALL, AND ON THE STRENGTH OF A CRITICAL STUDY OF HEGEL'S IDEALIST DIALECTICS, FEUERBACH'S METAPHYSICAL MATERIALISM, AND A GENERALISATION OF SOCIAL PRACTICE AND SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES, MARX AND ENGELS CREATED DIALECTICAL AND HISTORICAL MATERIALISM, A SCIENCE OF THE MOST GENERAL DEVELOPMENT LAWS GOVERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURE, THE SOCIETY AND THINKING

The philosophy of Marxism is materialism...

But Marx did not stop at eighteenth-century materialism: he developed philosophy to a higher level. He enriched it with the achievements of German classical philosophy, especially of Hegel's system, which in its turn had led to the materialism of Feuerbach. The main achievement was dialectics, i.e., the doctrine of development in its fullest, deepest and most comprehensive form, the doctrine of the relativity of the human knowledge that provides us with a reflection of eternally developing matter...

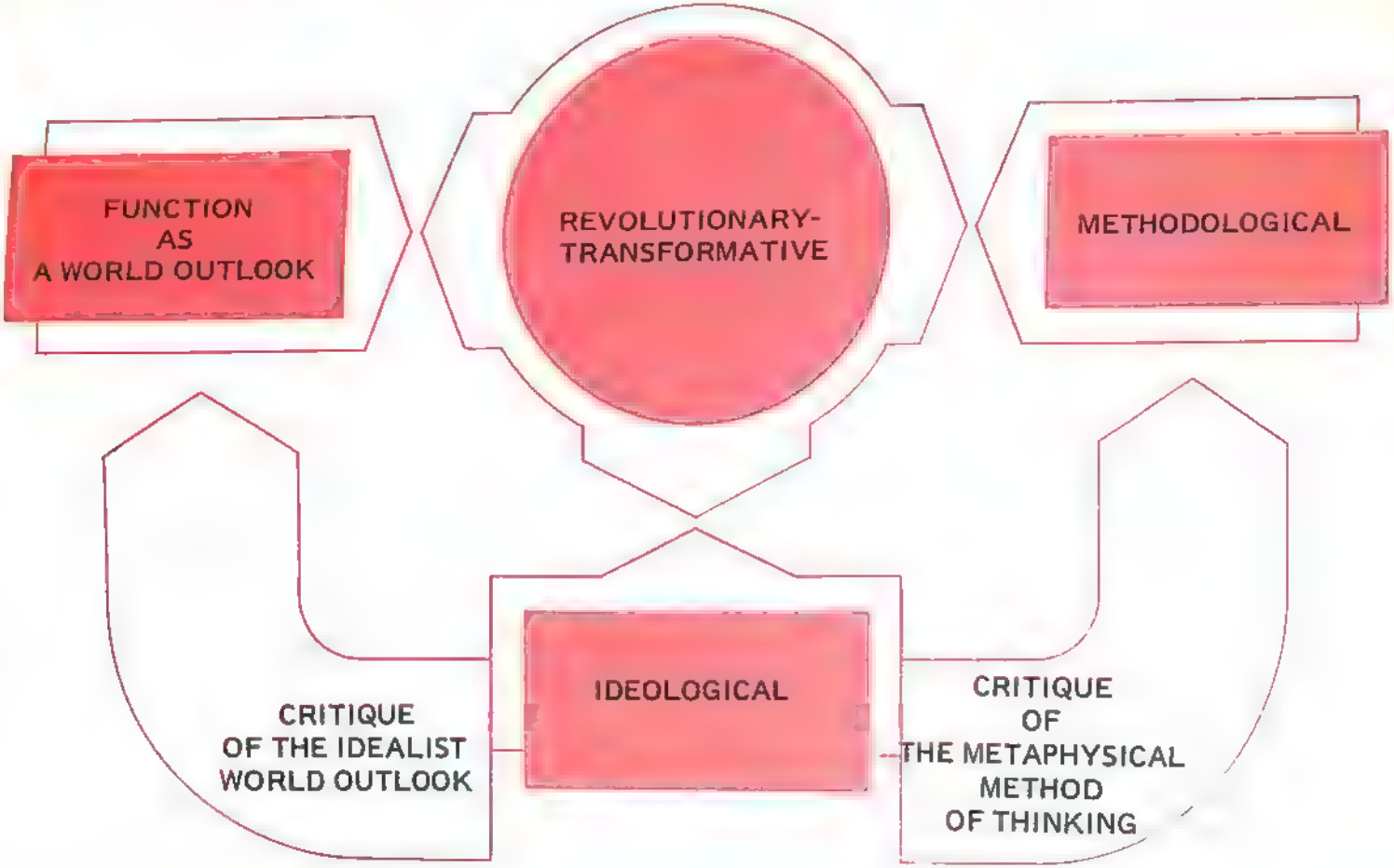
Marx deepened and developed philosophical materialism to the full, and extended the cognition of nature to include the cognition of human society. His historical materialism was a great achievement in scientific thinking. The chaos and arbitrariness that had previously reigned in views on history and politics were replaced by a strikingly integral and harmonious scientific theory, which shows how, in consequence of the growth of productive forces, out of one system of social life another and higher system develops—how capitalism, for instance, grows out of feudalism.

Just as man's knowledge reflects nature (i. e., developing matter), which exists independently of him, so man's social knowledge (i. e., his various views and doctrines—philosophical, religious, political and so forth) reflects the economic system of society. Political institutions are a superstructure on the economic foundation. We see, for example, that the various political forms of the modern European states serve to strengthen the domination of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat.

Marx's philosophy is a consummate philosophical materialism which has provided mankind, and especially the working class, with powerful instruments of knowledge.

V. I. Lenin

FUNCTIONS OF MARXIST-LENINIST PHILOSOPHY



STRUCTURE
OF MARXIST-LENINIST PHILOSOPHY

LENINIST STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

In the new historical epoch, the epoch of imperialism and socialist revolutions, Lenin creatively developed the Marxist philosophy, raising it to a qualitatively new stage.

IN DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM:

GAVE A PHILOSOPHICAL DEFINITION OF MATTER, SUBSTANTIATED THE OBJECTIVITY OF MOTION, SPACE AND TIME, CONCRETISED THE DOCTRINE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ITS LAWS, ELABORATED THE THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE, GAVE A PHILOSOPHICAL GENERALISATION OF LATE 19th-CENTURY AND EARLY 20th-CENTURY DISCOVERIES IN NATURAL SCIENCE,SUBSTANTIATED THE NEED FOR UNITY BETWEEN PHILOSOPHERS AND NATURALISTS

IN HISTORICAL MATERIALISM:

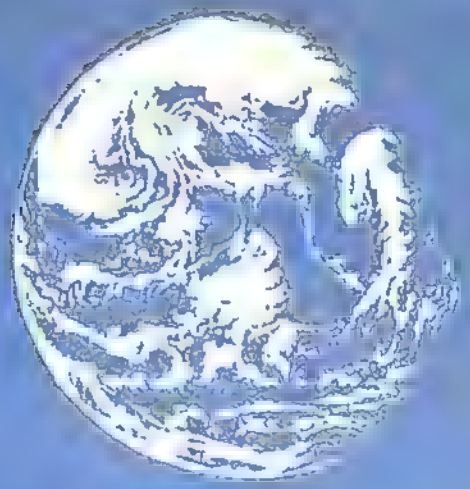
DEVELOPED THE DOCTRINE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATIONS, GAVE A DEFINITION OF CLASSES, ELABORATED THE THEORY OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION FROM EVERY ANGLE, CONCRETISED THE DOCTRINE OF THE STATE AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

CRITICISED THE MAIN TRENDS OF REACTIONARY BOURGEOIS PHILOSOPHY OF THE LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURIES (MACHISM, PRAGMATISM, etc.), REVISIONISM AND OPPORTUNISM

We do not regard Marx's theory as something completed and inviolable; on the contrary, we are convinced that it has only laid the foundation stone of the science which socialists must develop in all directions if they wish to keep pace with life... This theory provides only general guiding principles, which, in particular, are applied in England differently than in France, in France differently than in Germany, and in Germany differently than in Russia.

V. I. Lenin

The Declaration of the 1957 Meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Socialist Countries said: The theory of Marxism-Leninism derives from dialectical materialism. This world outlook reflects the universal law of development of nature, society and human thinking. It is valid for the past, the present and the future. Dialectical materialism is countered by metaphysics and idealism. Should the Marxist political party in its examination of questions base itself not on dialectics and materialism, the result will be one-sidedness and subjectivism, stagnation of human thought, isolation from life and loss of ability to make the necessary analysis of things and phenomena, revisionist and dogmatist mistakes and mistakes in policy. Application of dialectical materialism in practical work and the education of the party functionaries and the broad masses in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism are urgent tasks of the Communist and Workers' Parties.



DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

Chapter

3

MATTER AND THE FORMS OF ITS EXISTENCE

There is nothing in the world but matter in motion, and matter in motion cannot move otherwise than in space and time.

V. I. Lenin

32

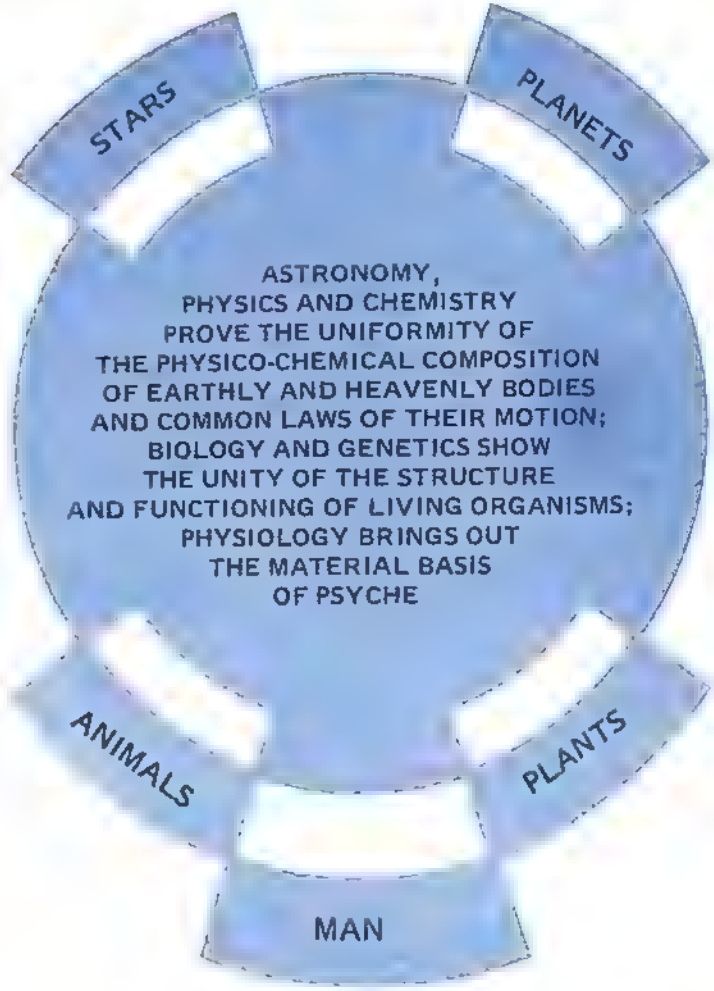
MATERIAL UNITY OF THE WORLD

Nothing is eternal but eternally changing, eternally moving matter and the laws according to which it moves... Matter remains eternally the same in all its transformations... None of its attributes can ever be lost.

Frederick Engels

The real unity of the world consists in its materiality, and this is proved ... by a long and wearisome development of philosophy and natural science.

Frederick Engels



LENIN'S DEFINITION OF MATTER

LENIN'S DEFINITION OF MATTER ANSWERS THE BASIC QUESTION OF PHILOSOPHY

WHAT IS PRIMARY?

THE SOLE "PROPERTY" OF MATTER WITH WHOSE RECOGNITION PHILOSOPHICAL MATERIALISM IS BOUND UP IS THE PROPERTY OF BEING AN OBJECTIVE REALITY, OF EXISTING OUTSIDE THE MIND.

MATTER IS THAT WHICH, ACTING UPON OUR SENSE-ORGANS, PRODUCES SENSATION.

THE EXISTENCE OF MATTER DOES NOT DEPEND ON SENSATION. MATTER IS PRIMARY. SENSATION, THOUGHT, CONSCIOUSNESS ARE THE SUPREME PRODUCT OF MATTER ORGANISED IN A PARTICULAR WAY.

MATTER IS A PHILOSOPHICAL CATEGORY DENOTING THE OBJECTIVE REALITY WHICH IS GIVEN TO MAN BY HIS SENSATIONS, AND WHICH IS COPIED, PHOTOGRAPHED AND REFLECTED BY OUR SENSATIONS, WHILE EXISTING INDEPENDENTLY OF THEM.

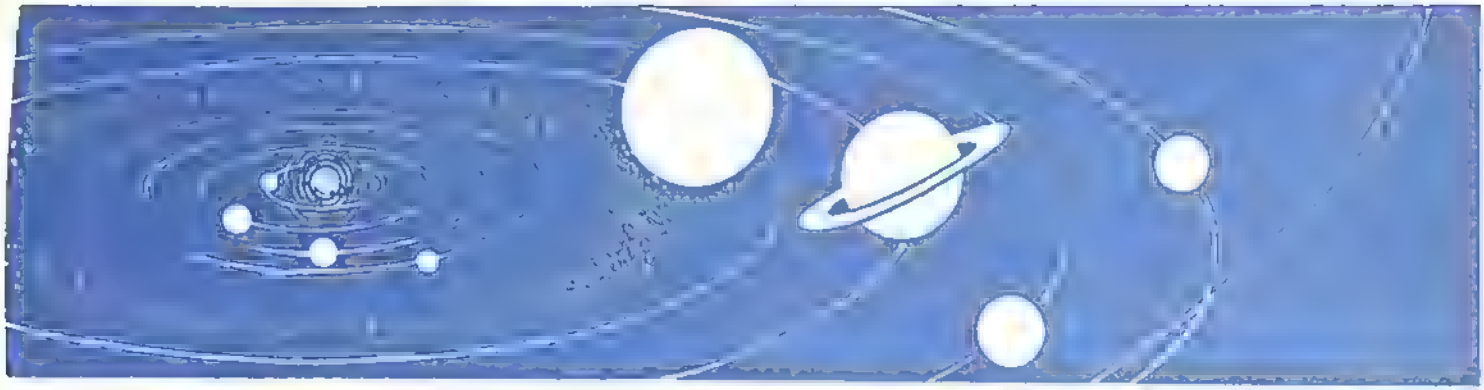
IS THE WORLD COGNISABLE?

THINGS EXIST OUTSIDE US. OUR PERCEPTION AND IDEAS ARE THEIR IMAGES. VERIFICATION OF THESE IMAGES, DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN TRUE AND FALSE IMAGES IS GIVEN BY PRACTICE.

NOT A SINGLE FACT WAS OR COULD BE CITED WHICH WOULD REFUTE THE VIEW THAT SENSATION IS AN IMAGE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD.

Recognition of the world's materiality makes it possible to demonstrate the objective nature of uniformity, causal connection, and necessity in nature and the society. No science could have developed without reflecting in its theories various properties and aspects of objectively existing matter.

MOTION AS THE MODE OF THE EXISTENCE OF MATTER



Motion, as applied to matter, is change in general

Frederick Engels

There is no matter without motion, nor could there ever have been. Motion in cosmic space, mechanical motion of smaller masses on a single celestial body, the vibration of molecules as heat, electric tension, magnetic polarisation, chemical decomposition and combination, organic life up to its highest product, thought—at each given moment each individual atom of matter is in one or other of these forms of motion.

Frederick Engels

Matter without motion is just as inconceivable as motion without matter. Motion is therefore as uncreatable and indestructible as matter itself...

Frederick Engels

RELATIVITY OF REST

All rest, all equilibrium, is only relative, only has meaning in relation to one or other definite form of motion. On the earth, for example, a body may be ... at rest; but this in no way prevents it from participating in the motion of the earth and in that of the whole solar system, just as little as it prevents its most minute physical particles from carrying out the vibrations determined by its temperature, or its atoms from passing through a chemical process.

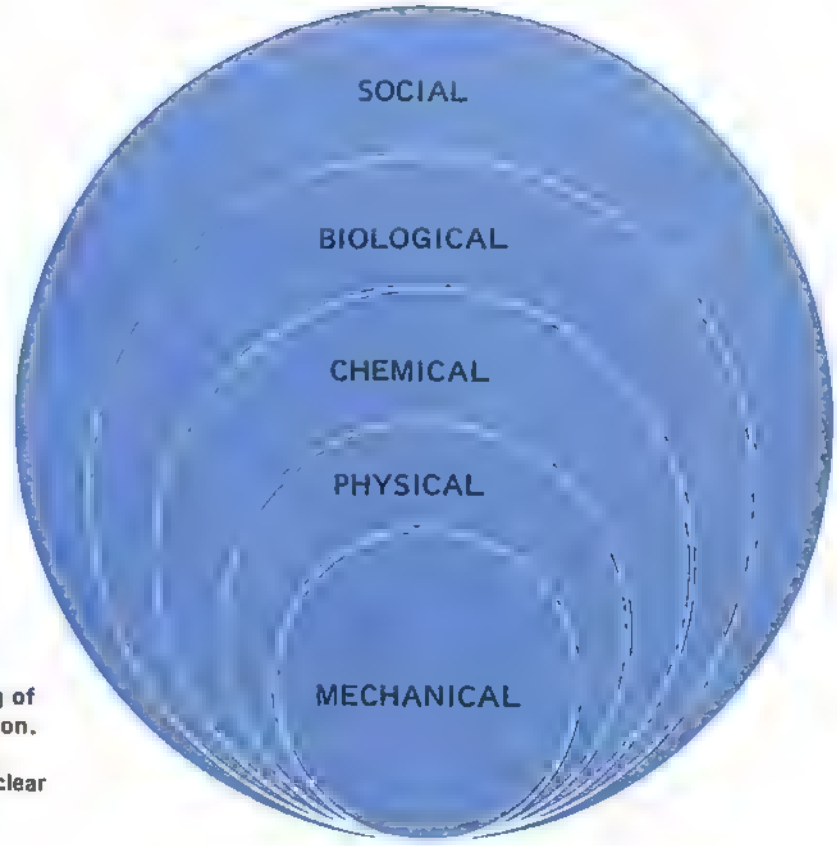
Frederick Engels

MAIN FORMS OF THE MOTION OF MATTER AND THEIR INTERCONNECTION

ONE FORM OF MOTION ENGENDERS ANOTHER, HIGHER FORM.

HIGHER FORMS OF MOTION INCLUDE LOWER ONES.

HIGHER FORMS OF MOTION ARE NOT REDUCED TO LOWER ONES, BUT CONSTITUTE A NEW QUALITY.



Modern science has markedly expanded the understanding of the forms of the motion of matter and their interconnection. New forms of material motion have been discovered: the motion of elementary particles, intra-atomic and intra-nuclear motion, etc.

SPACE AND TIME AS FORMS OF THE EXISTENCE OF MATTER

The basic forms of all being are space and time, and being out of time is just as gross an absurdity as being out of space.

Frederick Engels

SPACE

UNIVERSAL PROPERTY OF MATERIAL PROCESSES TO HAVE DURATION AND FOLLOW UPON EACH OTHER IN DEFINITE SUCCESSION

TIME

UNIVERSAL PROPERTY OF MATERIAL BODIES TO HAVE EXTENSION, OCCUPY A CERTAIN PLACE, AND BE LOCATED IN A CERTAIN WAY IN RELATION TO OTHER OBJECTS

COMMON PROPERTIES OF SPACE AND TIME

OBJECTIVITY

INDISSOLUBLE CONNECTION WITH THE MOTION OF MATTER

ETERNITY AND INFINITY

UNITY OF CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY

UNITY OF THE ABSOLUTE AND THE RELATIVE

DISTINCTIONS

SPACE	TIME
COEXISTENCE OF OBJECTS AND PHENOMENA	SUCCESSION OF OBJECTS AND PHENOMENA
THREE-DIMENSIONALITY	ONE-DIMENSIONALITY
REVERSIBILITY (POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT AND REVERSE MOTION)	IRREVERSIBILITY (POSSIBILITY OF MOTION ONLY IN ONE DIRECTION: FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE)

Chapter

CONSCIOUSNESS, ITS ORIGINS AND ESSENCE

Consciousness ... can never be anything else than conscious being ... and the being of men is their actual life-process.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

The world is the movement of ... objective reality reflected by our consciousness.

V. I. Lenin

REFLECTION AS A UNIVERSAL PROPERTY OF MATTER

It is logical to assert that all matter possesses a property which is essentially akin to sensation, the property of reflection.

V. I. Lenin

Reflection is the property of objects to reproduce in one way or another the specifics of other bodies which influence them.

TYPES	FORMS	EXAMPLES
REFLECTION IN INANIMATE NATURE (PASSIVE)	MECHANICAL	FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND
	PHYSICAL	REFLECTION OF OBJECTS IN THE WATER OR A MIRROR
	CHEMICAL	REACTIONS OF ASSOCIATION, DISSOCIATION, etc.
REFLECTION IN ANIMATE NATURE (BIOLOGICAL, RESULTING IN THE ORGANISM'S ADAPTATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT)	IRRITABILITY	PLANTS FOLLOWING THE SUN
	CONDITIONED AND UNCONDITIONED REFLEXES, INSTINCTS	FOOD, DEFENSIVE, SEXUAL, BUILDING AND OTHER INSTINCTS AND REFLEXES WHICH ENSURE THE SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIES
	ELEMENTARY ANIMAL PSYCHE	EMBRYONIC RATIONAL ACTIVITY, ANALYSIS, SYNTHESIS, etc.
SOCIAL, CONSCIOUS REFLECTION OF REALITY CONNECTED WITH ADAPTATION OF NATURE TO THE NEEDS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	HUMAN SENSUOUS COGNITION	VISUAL, AUDITORY, GUSTATORY, OLFACTORY AND OTHER SENSATIONS, PERCEPTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS
	LOGICAL COGNITION, WHICH EMERGED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF LABOUR ACTIVITY AND THE SECOND SIGNAL SYSTEM	CONCEPTS, JUDGEMENTS, INFERENCES

ROLE OF LABOUR IN THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF CONSCIOUSNESS

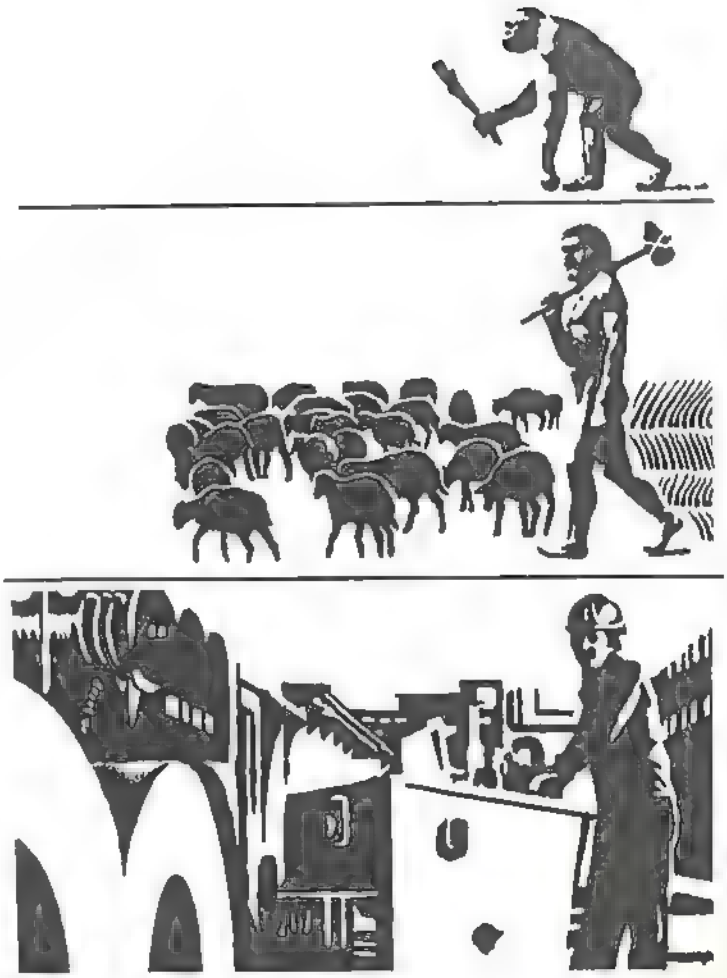
When after thousands of years of struggle the differentiation of hand from foot, and erect gait, were finally established, man became distinct from the ape and the basis was laid for the development of articulate speech and the mighty development of the brain that has since made the gulf between man and the ape an unbridgeable one. The specialisation of the hand—this implies the tool, and the tool implies specific human activity, the transforming reaction of man on nature, production...

With the development of the hand went that of the brain; first of all came consciousness of the conditions for separate practically useful actions, and later, among the more favoured peoples and arising from that consciousness, insight into the natural laws governing them. And with the rapidly growing knowledge of the laws of nature the means for reacting on nature also grew...

Frederick Engels

Man is the sole animal capable of working his way out of the merely animal state—his normal state is one appropriate to his consciousness, one that has to be created by himself.

Frederick Engels



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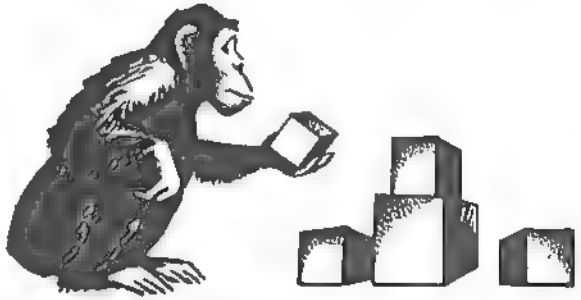
QUALITATIVE DISTINCTION BETWEEN HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS AND ANIMAL PSYCHE

A spider conducts operations that resemble those of a weaver, and a bee puts to shame many an architect in the construction of her cells. But what distinguishes the worst architect from the best of bees is this, that the architect raises his structure in imagination before he erects it in reality. At the end of every labour-process, we get a result that already existed in the imagination of the labourer at its commencement. He not only effects a change of form in the material on which he works, but he also realises a purpose of his own.

Karl Marx

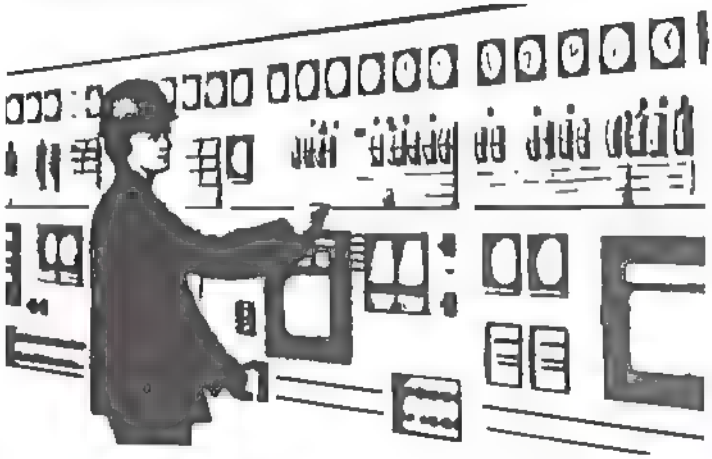


Concrete visual thinking of the higher animals occurs only in the process of action.

Man is capable of abstract, logical thinking.

Labour ... and ... speech—these were the two most essential stimuli under the influence of which the brain of the ape gradually changed into that of man... Hand in hand with the development of the brain went the development of its most immediate instruments—the senses... The eagle sees much farther than man, but the human eye discerns considerably more in things than does the eye of the eagle. The dog has a far keener sense of smell than man, but it does not distinguish a hundredth part of the odours that for man are definite signs denoting different things.

Frederick Engels



ELEMENTS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

The influences of the external world upon man express themselves in his brain, are reflected therein as feelings, thoughts, impulses, volitions—in short, as "ideal tendencies"...

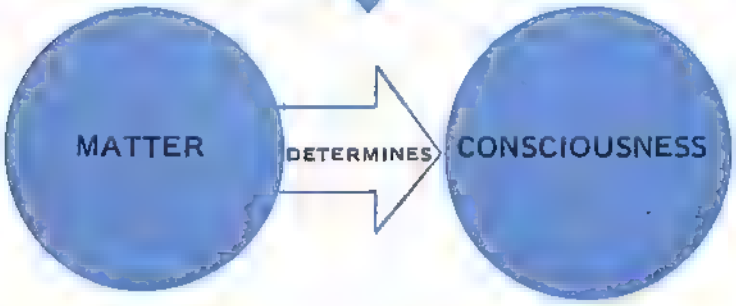
Frederick Engels

DEPENDENCE OF CONSCIOUSNESS ON MATTER

		SCIENCES CONFIRMING THAT CONSCIOUSNESS IS SECONDARY
DID NATURE EXIST BEFORE MAN?	Natural science ... asserts that the earth once existed in such a state that no man or any other creature existed or could have existed on it. Organic matter is a latter phenomenon, the fruit of a long evolution... Matter is primary, and thought, consciousness, sensation are products of a very high development. *V. I. Lenin*	SCIENCES OF THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EARTH AND LIFE ON IT
DOES MAN THINK WITH HIS BRAIN?	Our consciousness and thinking, however suprasensuous they may seem, are the product of a material, bodily organ, the brain. Matter is not a product of mind, but mind itself is merely the highest product of matter. *Frederick Engels*	PHYSIOLOGY OF HIGHER NERVOUS ACTIVITY AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
WHAT IS THE SPECIFICS OF CONSCIOUSNESS?	The ideal is nothing else than the material world reflected by the human mind and translated into forms of thought. *Karl Marx* Our consciousness is only an image of the external world. *V. I. Lenin*	DIALECTICO-MATERIALIST EPISTEMOLOGY, THEORY OF REFLECTION
ON WHAT DOES THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSCIOUSNESS DEPEND?	Men, developing their material production and their material intercourse, alter, along with their actual world, also their thinking and the products of their thinking. It is not consciousness that determines life, but life that determines consciousness. *Karl Marx and Frederick Engels*	SCIENCES ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY AND ALL FORMS OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

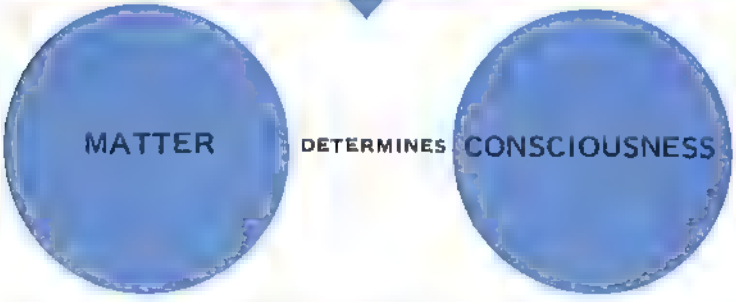
ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUSNESS

METAPHYSICAL MATERIALISM



Consciousness is passive contemplation of the world

IDEALISM

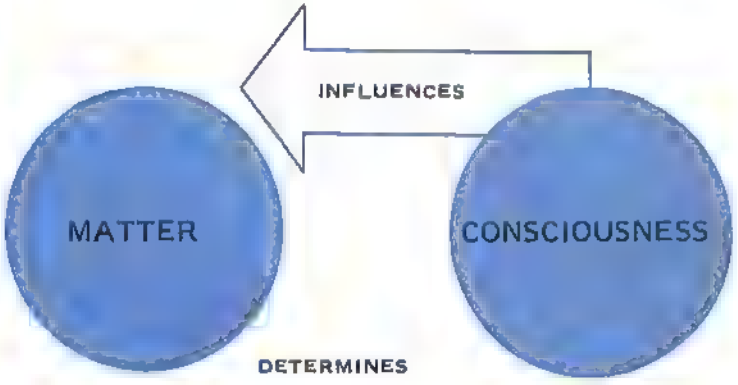


By exaggerating the activity of consciousness, idealism carries that exaggeration to an absurdity, to the assertion that consciousness creates the world

DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

Man's consciousness not only reflects the objective world, but creates it... The world does not satisfy man and man decides to change it by his activity.

V. I. Lenin



It is precisely the alteration of nature by men, not solely nature as such, which is the most essential and immediate basis of human thought, and it is in the measure that man has learned to change nature that his intelligence has increased.

Frederick Engels

FUNCTIONS OF CONSCIOUSNESS

COGNITIVE

REFLECTION OF REALITY

TELEOLOGICAL

GOAL-SETTING

CREATIVE

DESIGN

ACCUMULATIVE

ACCUMULATION OF KNOWLEDGE

AXIOLOGICAL

APPRAISAL AND SELF-APPRAISAL

REGULATIVE

PLANNING, CONTROL

Chapter

3

Dialectical thought is only the reflection of the motion through opposites which asserts itself everywhere in nature, and which by the continual conflict of the opposites and their final passage in one another, or into higher forms, determines the life of nature.

Frederick Engels

It is ... from the history of nature and human society that the laws of dialectics are abstracted. For they are nothing but the most general laws of these two aspects of historical development, as well as of thought itself.

Frederick Engels

LAWS AND CATEGORIES OF MATERIALIST DIALECTICS

STRUCTURE OF MATERIALIST DIALECTICS

PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL INTERCONNECTION OF OBJECTS AND PHENOMENA

PRINCIPLE OF MOTION AND DEVELOPMENT

LAW OF THE UNITY AND STRUGGLE OF OPPOSITES

LAW OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF QUANTITY INTO QUALITY AND VICE VERSA

LAW OF THE NEGATION OF THE NEGATION

INDIVIDUAL, PARTICULAR AND GENERAL

CAUSE AND EFFECT

NECESSITY AND CHANCE

CONTENT AND FORM

ESSENCE AND APPEARANCE

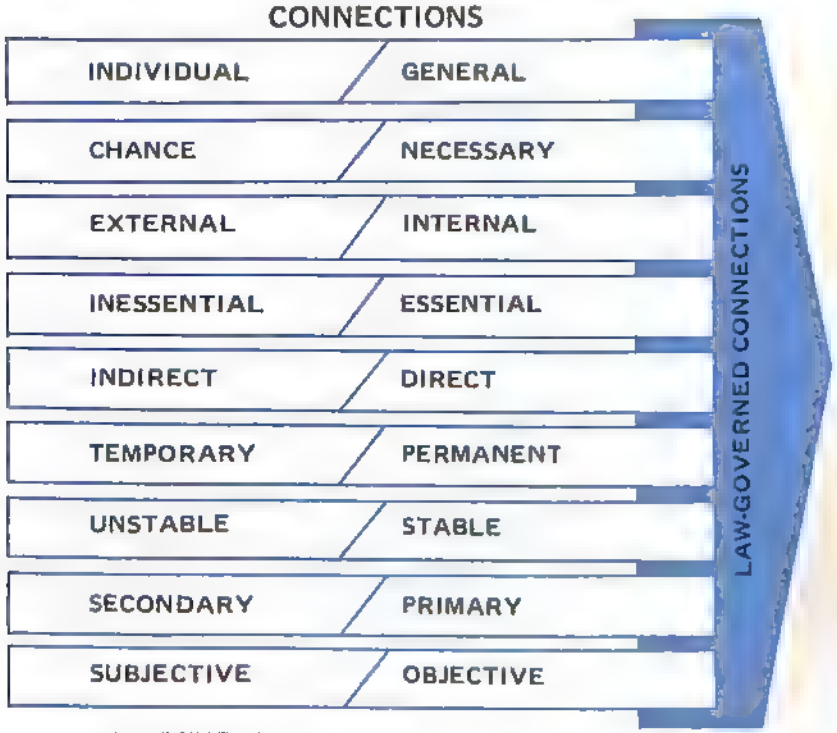
POSSIBILITY AND REALITY

AND OTHERS

DIVERSITY OF CONNECTIONS AND CONCEPT OF LAW

The first thing that strikes us in considering matter in motion is the inter-connection of the individual motions of separate bodies, their being determined by one another.

Frederick Engels



The whole of nature accessible to us forms a system, an interconnected totality of bodies, and by bodies we understand here all material existences extending from stars to atoms.

Frederick Engels

LAW

THIS INNER AND NECESSARY CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO SEEMING CONTRADICTIONS.

Karl Marx

THE FORM OF UNIVERSALITY IN NATURE IS LAW.

Frederick Engels

LAW IS RELATION... RELATION OF ESSENCES OR BETWEEN ESSENCES.

V. I. Lenin

LAW IS THE ENDURING (THE PERSISTING) IN APPEARANCES

V. I. Lenin

L a w is a general, necessary, essential, and enduring objective connection between objects or phenomena

CLASSIFICATION OF LAWS

TWO CONCEPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

	METAPHYSICAL	DIALECTICAL
ARE PHENOMENA INTERCONNECTED? IS THE WORLD INTEGRAL?	OBJECTS AND PHENOMENA IN NATURE AND THE SOCIETY ARE ISOLATED, INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER	THE WORLD IS AN INTEGRAL WHOLE, WHERE PHENOMENA ARE MUTUALLY CONDITIONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF MATTER IN MOTION
WHY DOES MOTION OCCUR? WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF DEVELOPMENT?	THE WORLD MOVES SOLELY UNDER THE IMPACT OF AN EXTERNAL FORCE (AN INITIAL IMPULSE, GOD)	THE SOURCE OF THE MOTION OF MATTER LIES IN MATTER ITSELF, DEVELOPMENT IS A STRUGGLE OF OPPOSITES (LAW OF THE UNITY AND STRUGGLE OF OPPOSITES)
DOES ANYTHING NEW ARISE IN THE PROCESS OF MOTION?	NOTHING QUALITATIVELY NEW CAN ARISE, THAT WHICH EXISTS IS ONLY INCREASED OR REDUCED IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS	AT A DEFINITE STAGE, QUANTITATIVE CHANGES LEAD TO THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW QUALITY (LAW OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF QUANTITY INTO QUALITY AND VICE VERSA)
WHAT IS THE DIRECTION IN MOTION AND DEVELOPMENT?	MOTION IS CIRCULAR, WITH PERPETUAL REPETITIONS OF ONE AND THE SAME CYCLE	DEVELOPMENT WHICH SEEMINGLY REPEATS PAST STAGES, BUT WHICH IN EFFECT REPEATS THEM ON A NEW AND HIGHER BASIS (LAW OF THE NEGATION OF THE NEGATION)

The first conception is lifeless, pale and dry. The second is living. The second a l o n e furnishes the key to the "self-movement" of everything existing; it alone furnishes the key to the "leaps", to the "break in continuity", to the "transformation into the opposite", to the destruction of the old and the emergence of the new.

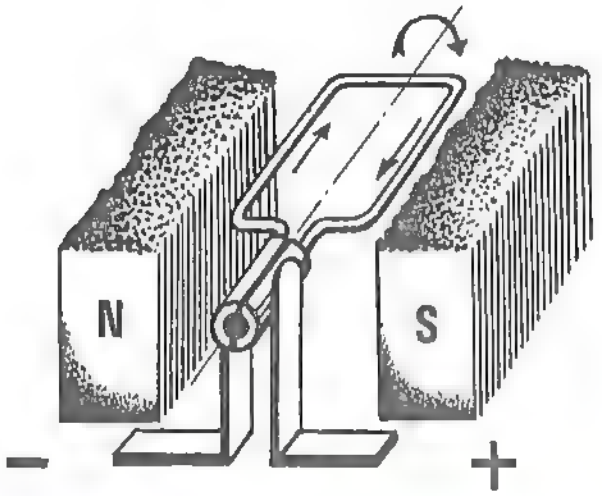
V. I. Lenin

LAW OF THE UNITY AND STRUGGLE OF OPPOSITES

So long as we consider things as at rest and lifeless, each one by itself, alongside and after each other, we do not run up against any contradictions in them... But the position is quite different as soon as we consider things in their motion, their change, their life, their reciprocal influence on one another. Then we immediately become involved in contradictions. Motion itself is a contradiction: even simple mechanical change of position can only come about through a body being at one and the same moment of time both in one place and in another place, being in one and the same place and also not in it. And the continuous origination and simultaneous solution of this contradiction is precisely what motion is...

If simple mechanical change of place contains a contradiction, this is even more true of the higher forms of motion of matter, and especially of organic life and its development. We saw above that life consists precisely and primarily in this—that a being is at each moment itself and yet something else. Life is therefore also a contradiction which is present in things and processes themselves, and which constantly originates and resolves itself; and as soon as the contradiction ceases, life, too, comes to an end, and death steps in. We likewise saw that also in the sphere of thought we could not escape contradictions, and that for example the contradiction between man's inherently unlimited capacity for knowledge and its actual presence only in men who are externally limited and possess limited cognition finds its solution in what is—at least practically, for us—an endless succession of generations, in infinite progress.

Frederick Engels



UNIVERSALITY OF THE LAW OF THE UNITY AND STRUGGLE OF OPPOSITES

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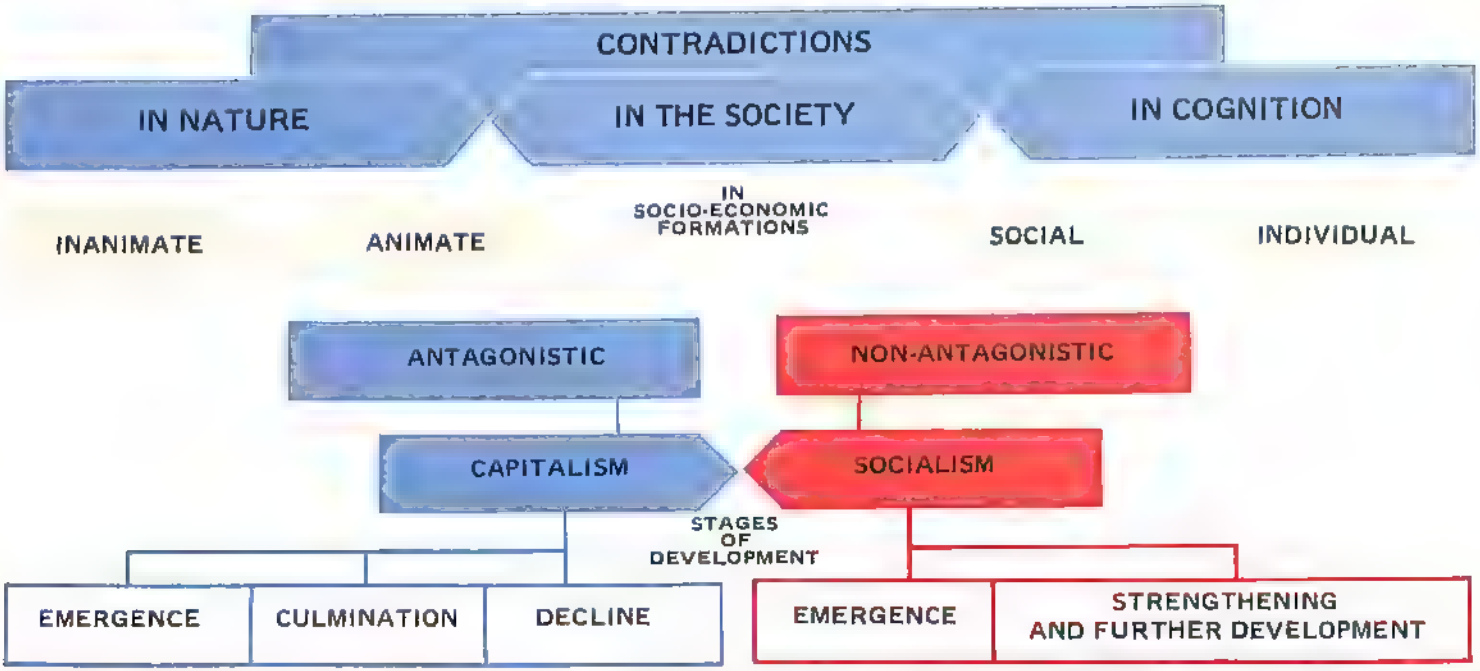
There is a contradiction in a thing remaining the same and yet constantly changing, being possessed of the antithesis of "inertness" and "change".

Frederick Engels

	EXAMPLES OF OPPOSITES		
INANIMATE NATURE	AN ATOM CONSISTS OF	A POSITIVE NUCLEUS	AND NEGATIVE ELECTRONS
	A PHOTON BREAKS UP INTO	AN ELECTRON	AND A POSITRON
	PLANETS MOVE UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE FORCES OF	ATTRACTION	AND REPULSION
ANIMATE NATURE	METABOLISM INCLUDES	ASSIMILATION	AND DISSIMILATION
	SPECIES DEVELOP THROUGH AN INTERPLAY OF	MUTABILITY	AND HEREDITY
	THE WORK OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM INVOLVES PROCESSES OF	EXCITATION	AND INHIBITION
SOCIETY	PRODUCTION OF MATERIAL VALUES IS AN INTERCHANGE OF SUBSTANCES BETWEEN	NATURE	AND THE SOCIETY
	ANTAGONISTIC FORMATIONS DEVELOP THROUGH A STRUGGLE BETWEEN	THE EXPLOITED	AND THE EXPLOITERS
	SOCIALISM DEVELOPS IN A STRUGGLE BETWEEN	THE NEW, THE NASCENT	AND THE OLD, THE MORIBUND
	(IN ALL SPHERES OF LIFE: ECONOMIC, SOCIO-POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL)		
THINKING	IN LOGICAL COGNITION	ANALYSIS ABSTRACTION	AND SYNTHESIS AND GENERALISATION
	IN MATHEMATICS	DIFFERENTIAL	AND INTEGRAL
	IN MECHANICS	ACTION	AND COUNTERACTION
	IN PHYSICS	POSITIVE	AND NEGATIVE ELECTRICITY
	IN CHEMISTRY	ASSOCIATION	AND DISSOCIATION OF ATOMS
	IN SOCIAL SCIENCE	CLASS STRUGGLE	

CLASSIFICATION OF CONTRADICTIONS



CONTRADICTIONS
OF DIFFERENT STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FORMATIONS

An exact representation of the universe, of its evolution, of the development of mankind, and of the reflection of this evolution in the minds of men, can ... only be obtained by the methods of dialectics with its constant regard to the innumerable actions and reactions of life and death, of progressive or retrogressive changes.

Frederick Engels

FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTION OF CAPITALISM

Production has become a social act. Exchange and appropriation continue to be individual acts, the acts of individuals. The social product is appropriated by the individual capitalist. Fundamental contradiction, whence arise all the contradictions in which our present-day society moves...

a) Severance of the producer from the means of production. Antagonism between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie.

b) Contradiction between socialised organisation in the individual factory and social anarchy as a whole.

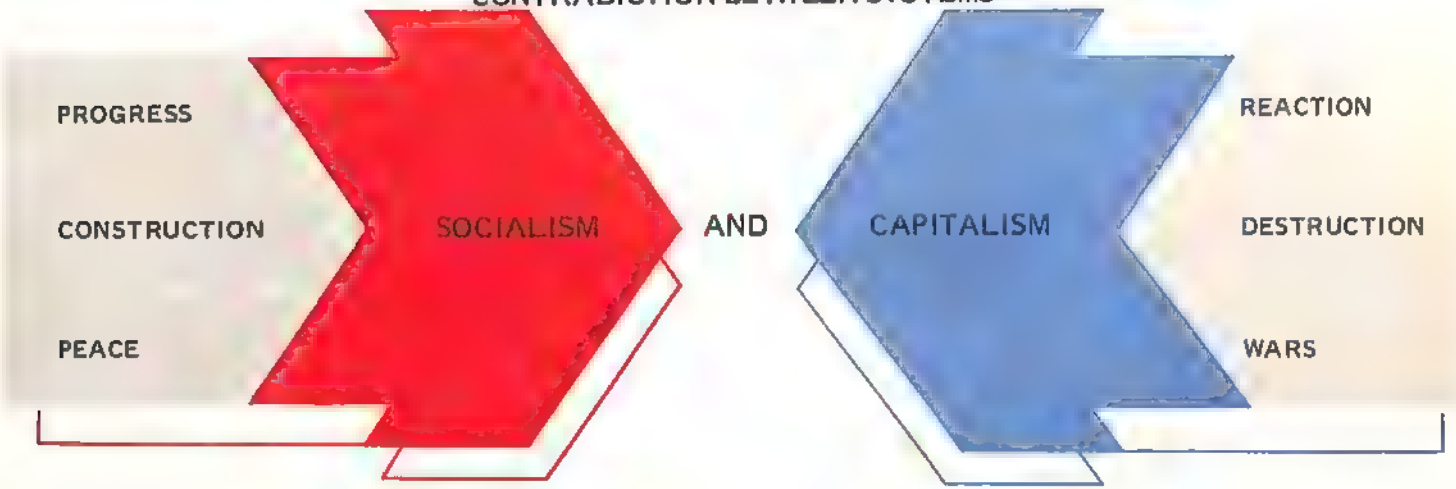
c) On the one hand, perfecting of machinery, made by competition compulsory for each individual manufacturer, and complemented by a constantly growing displacement of labourers. Industrial reserve army. On the other hand, unlimited extension of production, also compulsory under competition for every manufacturer. On both sides, unheard-of development of productive forces, excess of supply over demand, over-production, glutting of the markets, crises... The vicious circle: excess here, of means of production and products—excess there, of labourers, without employment and without means of existence.

Frederick Engels

FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTION OF OUR EPOCH

Our epoch, whose main content is the transition from capitalism to socialism, is an epoch of struggle between the two opposite social systems, an epoch of socialist and national-liberation revolutions, an epoch of the downfall of imperialism and elimination of the colonial system, an epoch when ever new peoples are going over to the socialist road.

CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SYSTEMS



THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE TWO SOCIAL SYSTEMS MANIFESTS ITSELF IN ALL SPHERES OF SOCIAL LIFE:

ECONOMIC	POLITICAL	IDEOLOGICAL

LAW OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF QUANTITY INTO QUALITY AND VICE VERSA

In nature, in a manner exactly fixed for each individual case, qualitative changes can only occur by the quantitative addition or quantitative subtraction of matter or motion (so called energy).
It is impossible to alter the quality of a body without addition or subtraction of matter or motion, i. e., without quantitative alteration of the body concerned.
Similarly, a definite minimum current strength is required to cause the platinum wire of an electric incandescent lamp to glow; and every metal has its temperature of incandescence and fusion, every liquid its definite freezing and boiling point at a given pressure... In short, the so-called physical constants are for the most part nothing but designations of the nodal points at which quantitative addition or subtraction of motion produces qualitative change in the state of the body concerned, at which, therefore, quantity is transformed into quality...
Chemistry can be termed the science of the qualitative changes of bodies as a result of changed quantitative composition...
In biology, as in the history of human society, the same law holds good at every step.

Frederick Engels

A molecule of water consists of two atoms of hydrogen (H) and one atom of oxygen (O). If a second atom of oxygen is added to the molecule of water, the result will be a totally different chemical substance: hydrogen peroxide.

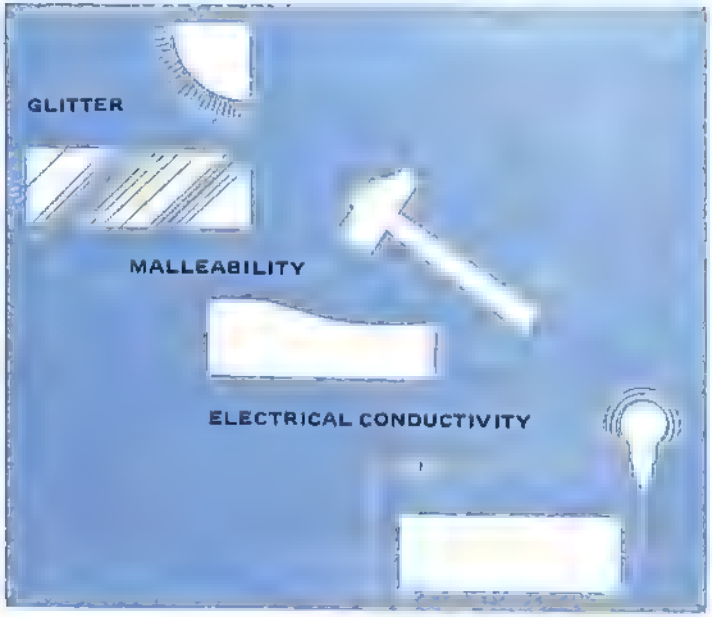
$$\underset{\text{water}}{2H_2O} + O_2 \longrightarrow \underset{\substack{\text{hydrogen}\\ \text{peroxide}}}{2H_2O_2}$$

QUALITY AND PROPERTIES

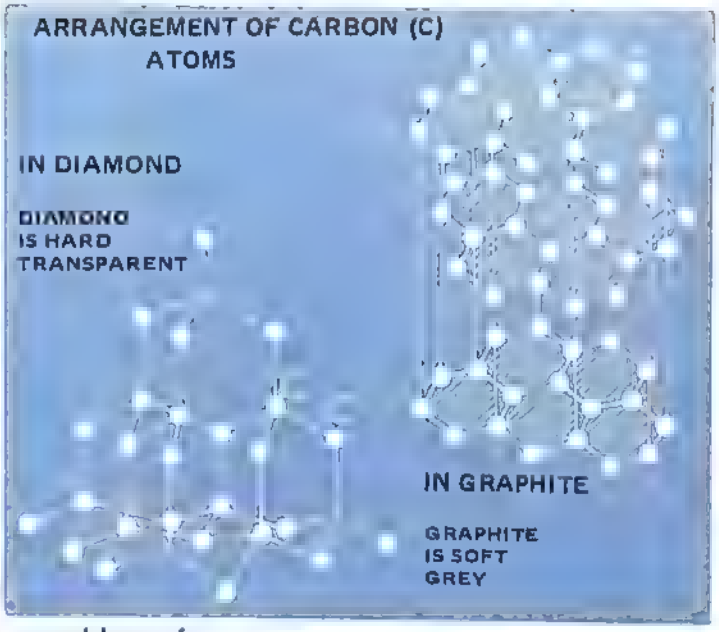
Quality is the inner structure of objects and phenomena, that which distinguishes them from other objects and phenomena and which is inherent only in them.

Property is an outer manifestation of a quality in its interaction with other phenomena.

PROPERTIES



QUALITIES DIFFER IN THEIR PROPERTIES



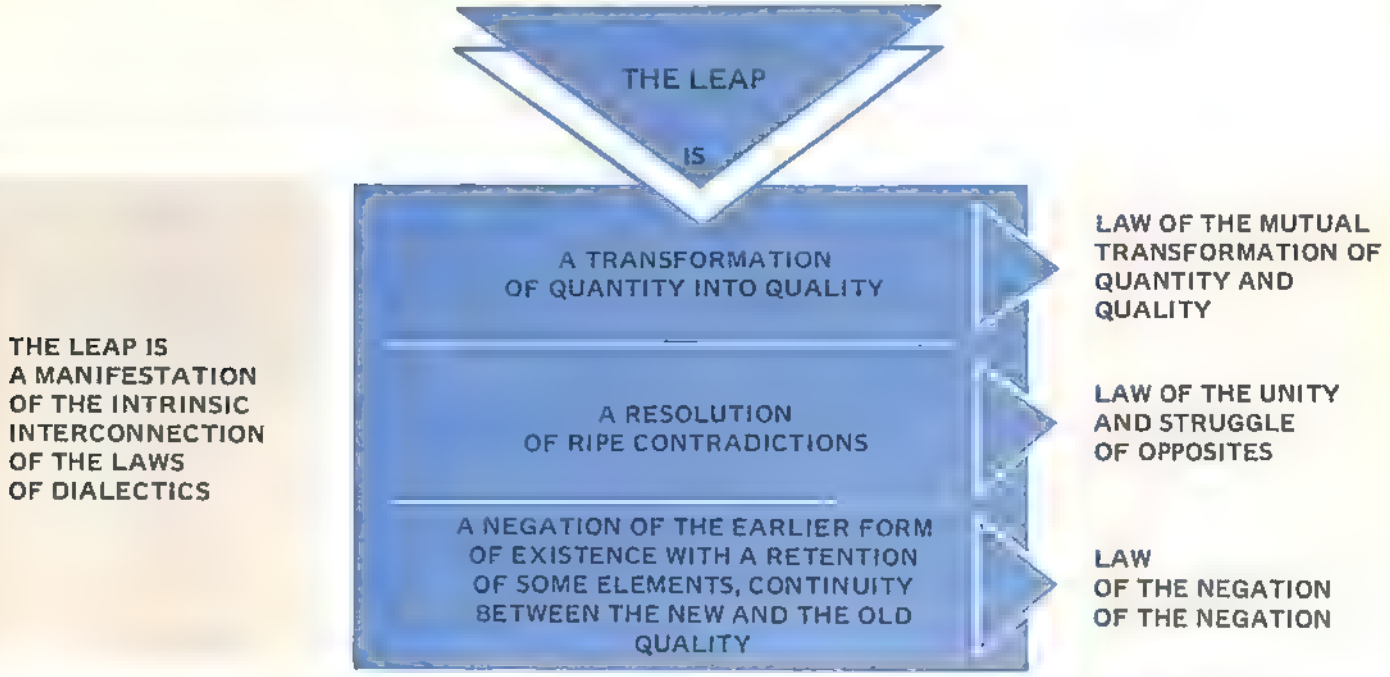
Every useful thing ... is an assemblage of many properties, and may therefore be of use in various ways. To discover the various uses of things is the work of history.

Karl Marx

THE LEAP AS A TRANSITION FROM ONE QUALITY TO ANOTHER

At certain definite nodal points, the purely quantitative increase or descrease gives rise to a qualitative leap.

Frederick Engels



What distinguishes the dialectical transition from the undialectical transition? The leap. The contradiction. The interruption of gradualness. The unity (identity) of Being and not-Being.

V. I. Lenin

TYPES OF LEAP

The type of leap is determined by the nature of the object or phenomenon itself and the conditions of its existence.

RAPID,

WITH
AN IMMEDIATE
AND
TOTAL CHANGE
IN QUALITY

CHEMICAL REACTIONS,
CHANGES IN THE STATES
OF AGGREGATION
OF SUBSTANCES

SEIZURE
OF POLITICAL POWER

LEAPS

the type of leap
changes
with a change
in conditions

Thus, chemical reactions
in nuclear bombs are
explosive, instantaneous,
and in the reactors
of nuclear power plants
are a slow and gradual
process.

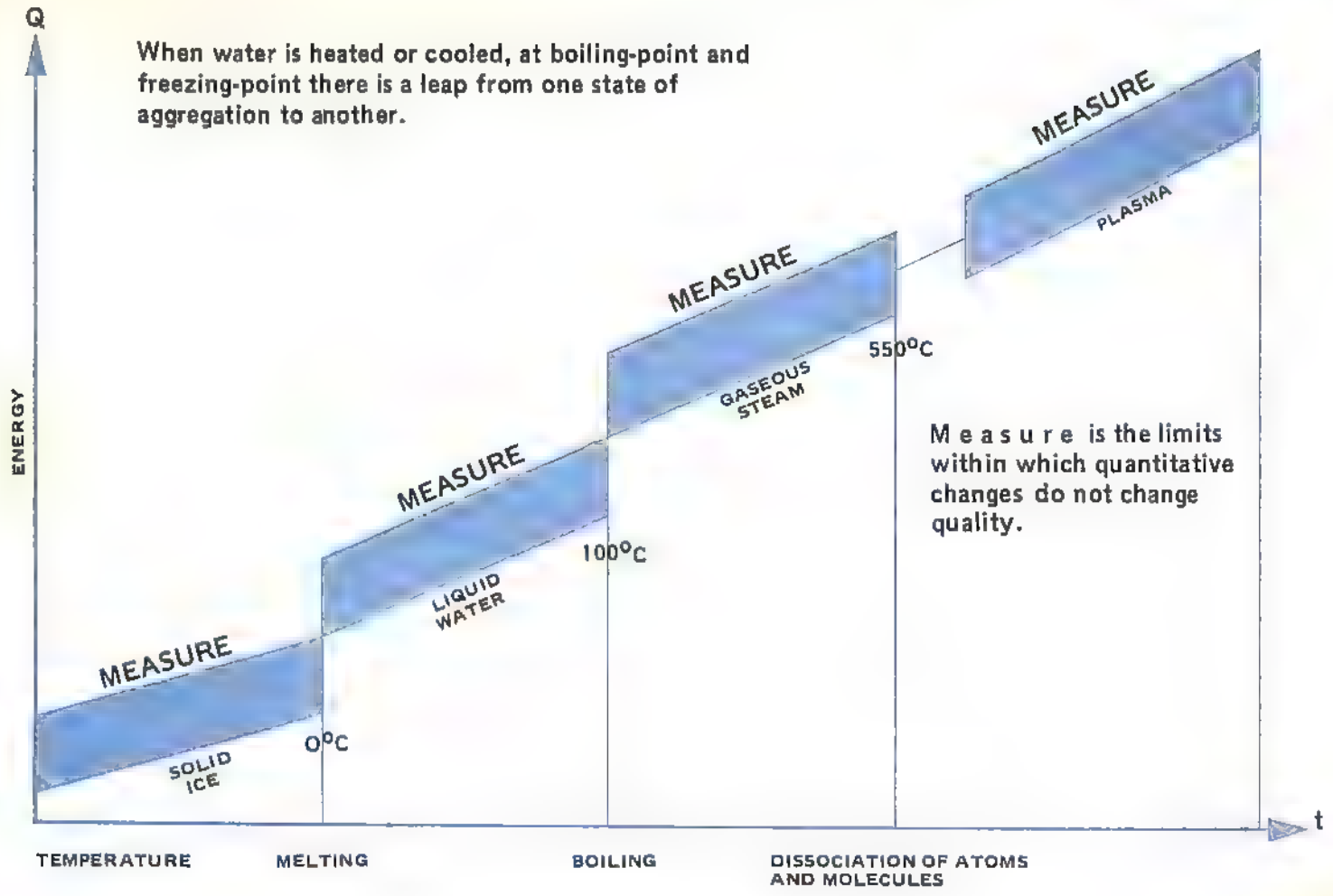
SLOW,

WITH
A GRADUAL
TRANSFORMATION
OF ONE QUALITY
INTO ANOTHER

FORMATION OF NEW SPECIES
OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
TRANSFORMATIONS
IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

LEAP-LIKE CHANGES IN NATURE

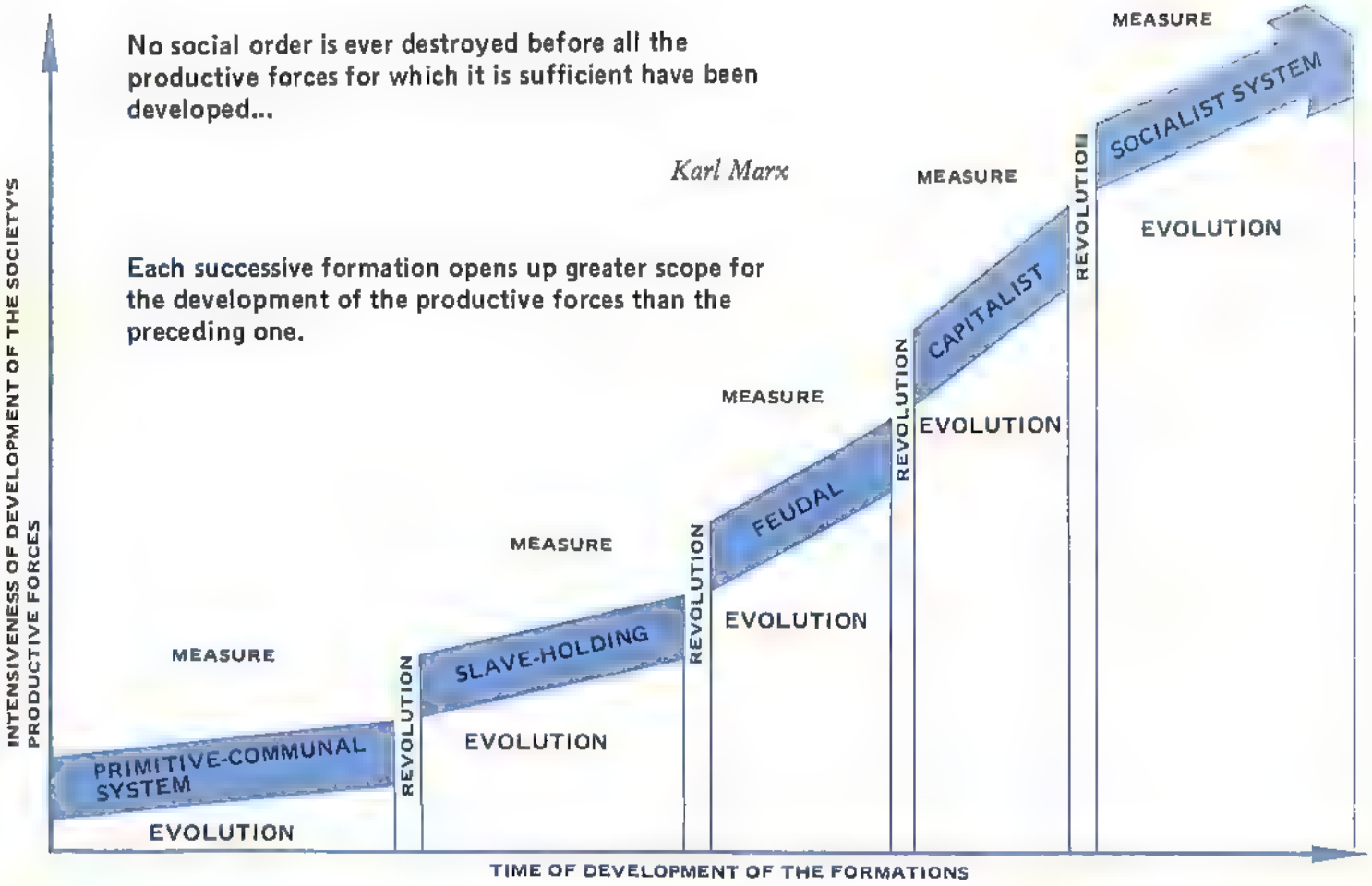


LEAPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY

No social order is ever destroyed before all the productive forces for which it is sufficient have been developed...

Karl Marx

Each successive formation opens up greater scope for the development of the productive forces than the preceding one.



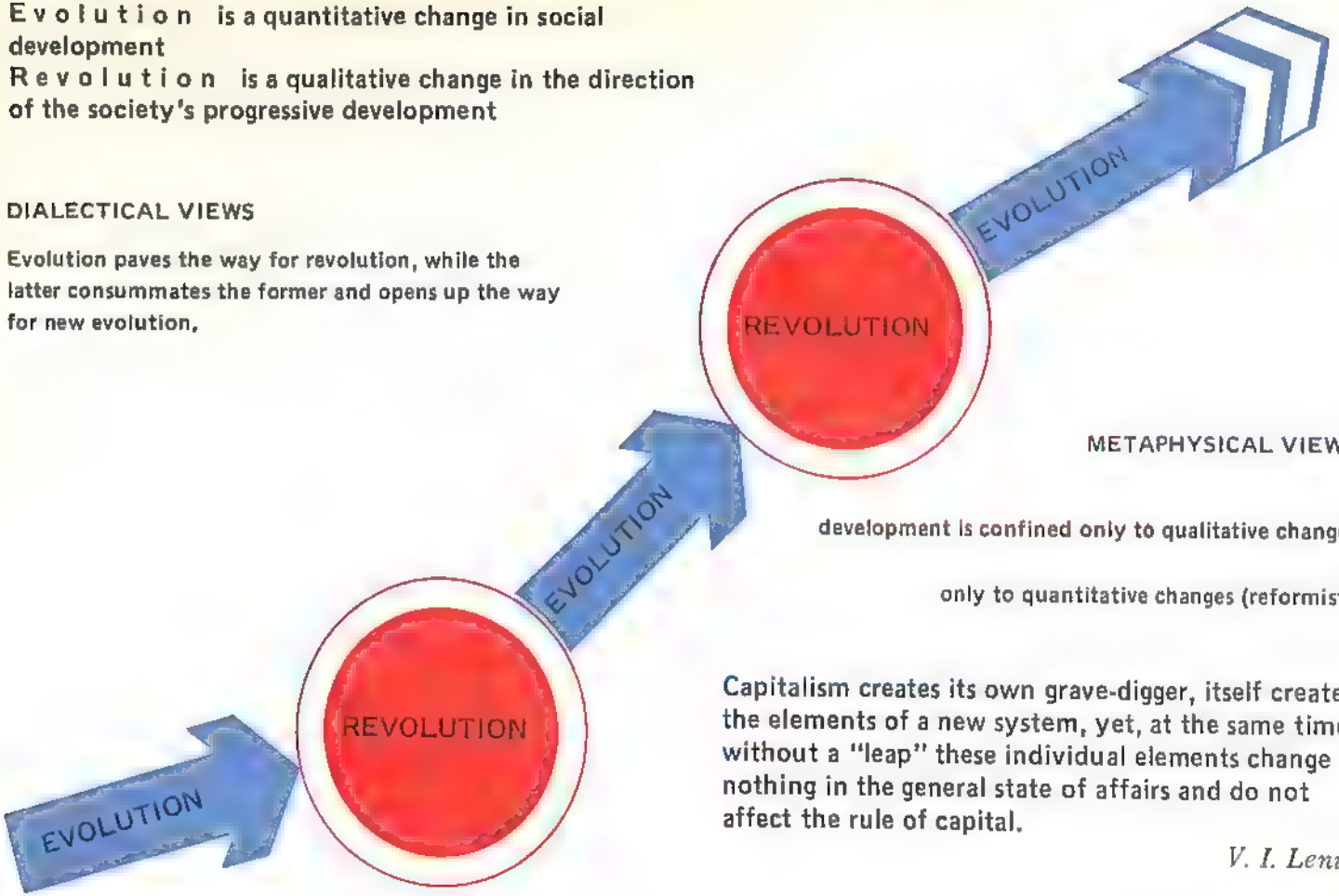
EVOLUTION AND REVOLUTION

Evolution is a quantitative change in social development

Revolution is a qualitative change in the direction of the society's progressive development

DIALECTICAL VIEWS

Evolution paves the way for revolution, while the latter consummates the former and opens up the way for new evolution.



METAPHYSICAL VIEWS

development is confined only to qualitative changes

or

only to quantitative changes (reformists)

Capitalism creates its own grave-digger, itself creates the elements of a new system, yet, at the same time, without a "leap" these individual elements change nothing in the general state of affairs and do not affect the rule of capital.

V. I. Lenin

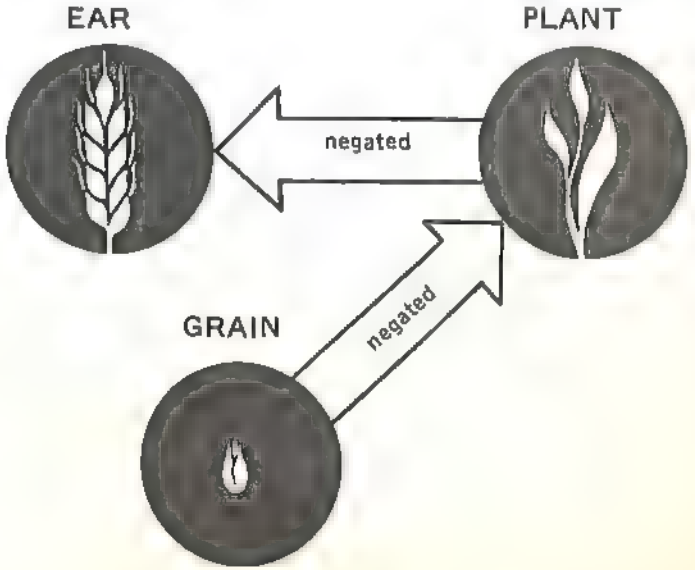
LAW OF THE NEGATION OF THE NEGATION

What ... is ... negation of the negation?.. A very simple process which is taking place everywhere and every day... Let us take a grain of barley... If such a grain of barley meets with conditions which are normal for it, if it falls on suitable soil, then under the influence of heat and moisture it undergoes a specific change, it germinates; the grain as such ceases to exist, it is negated, and in its place appears the plant which has arisen from it, the negation of the grain. But what is the normal life-process of this plant? It grows, flowers, is fertilized and finally once more produces grains of barley, and as soon as these have ripened the stalk dies, is in its turn negated. As a result of this negation of the negation we have once again the original grain of barley, but not as a single unit, but ten-, twenty- or thirtyfold...

It is the same in history, as well. All civilized peoples begin with the common ownership of the land. With all peoples who have passed a certain primitive stage, this common ownership becomes in the course of the development of agriculture a fetter on production. It is abolished, negated, and after a longer or shorter series of intermediate stages is transformed into private property. But at a higher stage of agricultural development ... private property conversely becomes a fetter on production... The demand that it, too, should be negated, that it should once again be transformed into common property, necessarily arises. But this demand does not mean the restoration of the aboriginal common ownership, but the institution of a far higher and more developed form of possession in common...

And so, what is the negation of the negation? An extremely general—and for this reason extremely far-reaching and important—law of development of nature, history, and thought.

Frederick Engels



ANTITHESIS BETWEEN THE DIALECTICAL AND METAPHYSICAL VIEWS ON NEGATION

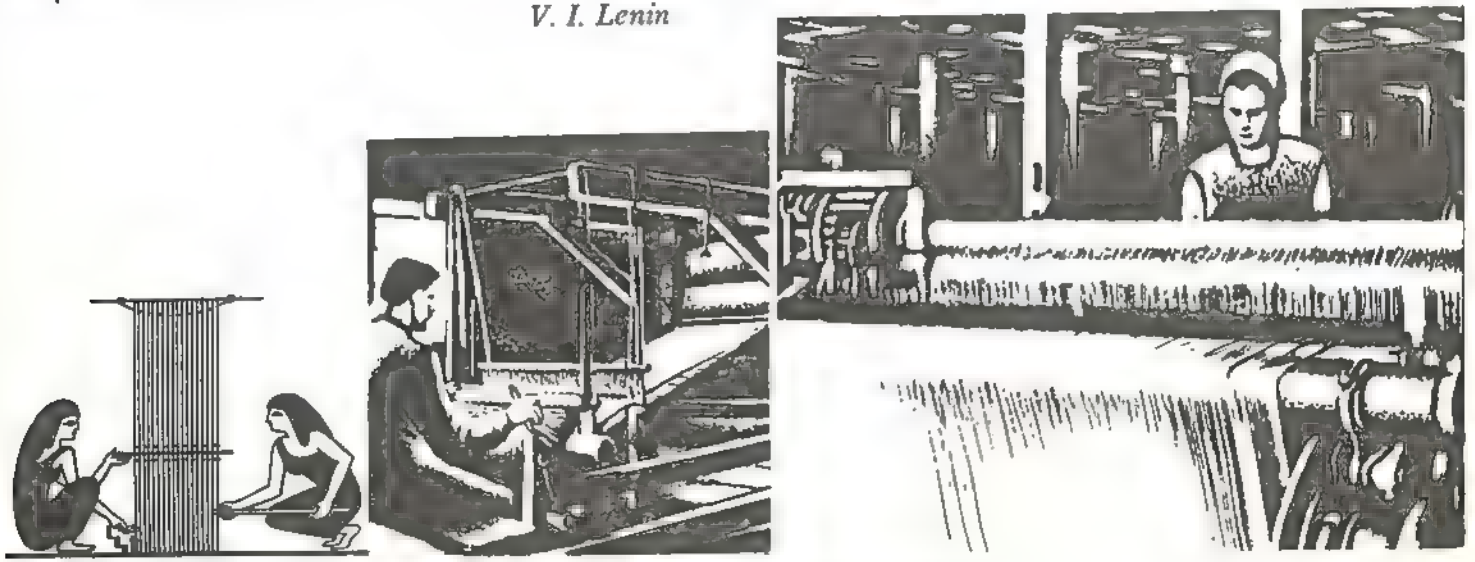
METAPHYSICS	DIALECTICS
THE CAUSES OF NEGATION ARE EXTERNAL	THE CAUSES OF NEGATION LIE IN THE PHENOMENON ITSELF, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS INNER CONTRADICTIONS
NEGATION IS POSSIBLE AT ANY MOMENT	NEGATION IS ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN THE CONTRADICTIONS HAVE MATURED, WHEN THE QUANTITATIVE CHANGES HAVE APPROACHED THE LIMIT OF A MEASURE
THE MODES OF NEGATION DO NOT DEPEND ON THE PHENOMENON BEING NEGATED	THE MODE OF NEGATION DEPENDS ON THE GENERAL AND SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE PROCESS. FOR EACH PHENOMENON THERE IS A SPECIAL TYPE OF NEGATION
A PHENOMENON IS TOTALLY NEGATED AND ITS DEVELOPMENT STOPS	ONLY THE OBSOLETE FORM IS NEGATED, WHILE ALL THAT IS VIABLE IN THE CONTENT OF A PHENOMENON IS RETAINED, AND THE PHENOMENON RISES TO A NEW AND HIGHER STAGE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUITY IN DEVELOPMENT

Not empty negation, not futile negation, (not sceptical negation) is ... essential in dialectics, —which undoubtedly contains the element of negation and indeed as its most important element—no, but negation as a moment of connection, as a moment of development, retaining the positive.

V. I. Lenin

Because of the simple fact that every succeeding generation finds itself in possession of the productive forces acquired by the previous generation, and that they serve it as the raw material for new production, a coherence arises in human history, a history of humanity takes shape. *Karl Marx*



Socialism calls for a conscious mass advance to greater productivity of labour compared with capitalism, and on the basis achieved by capitalism.

V. I. Lenin

RECURRENCE IN DEVELOPMENT ON A HIGHER BASIS

A development that repeats, as it were, stages that have already been passed, but repeats them in a different way, on a higher basis ... a development ... that proceeds in spirals, not in a straight line.

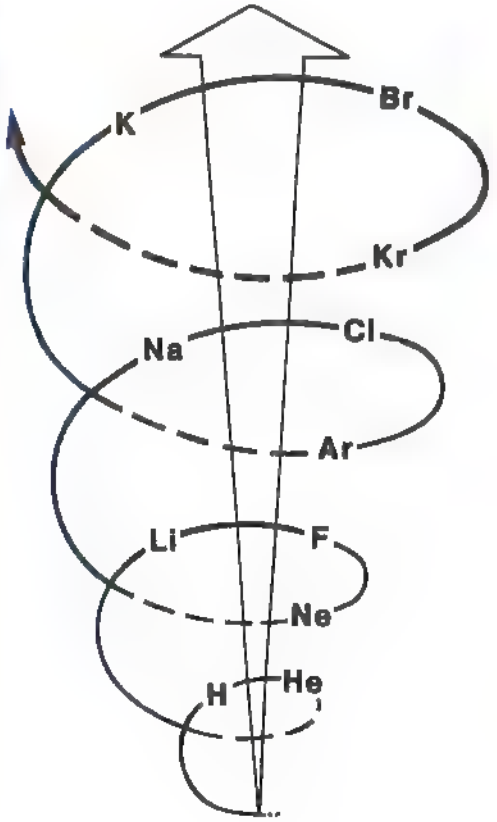
V. I. Lenin

THE SPIRAL ILLUSTRATES THREE INTERRELATED ASPECTS OF THE LAW:

CONTINUITY IN DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESSIVE NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT

CYCLICAL RECURRENCE ON A HIGHER BASIS



IN MENDELEYEV'S PERIODIC SYSTEM, THE THREE ASPECTS OF THE LAW ARE CLEARLY MANIFESTED:

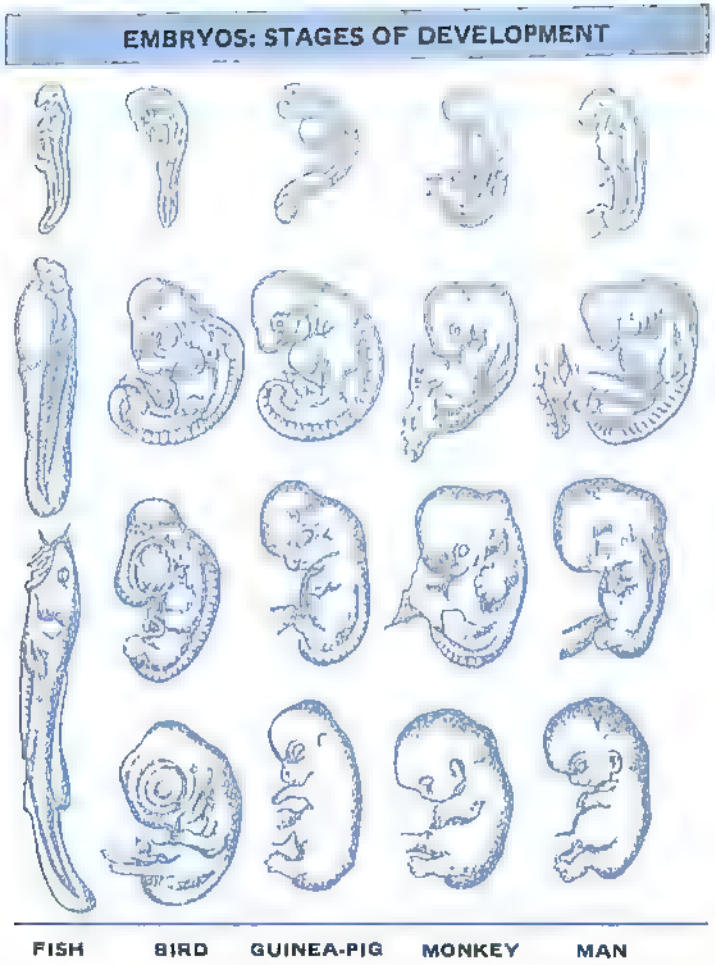
EACH SUBSEQUENT ELEMENT INCLUDES THE PRECEDING ELEMENT, PARTIALLY NEGATING IT

FROM THE FIRST TO THE LAST PERIOD, ELEMENTS AND THEIR PROPERTIES ARE COMPLEXIFIED

THE PROPERTIES OF ELEMENTS ARE PERIODICALLY REPEATED ON A HIGHER LEVEL. METALLIC PROPERTIES INTENSIFY FROM ONE PERIOD TO ANOTHER

Just as the development history of the human embryo in the mother's womb is only an abbreviated repetition of the history, extending over millions of years, of the bodily evolution of our animal ancestors ... so the mental development of the human child is only a still more abbreviated repetition of the intellectual development of these same ancestors, at least of the later ones.

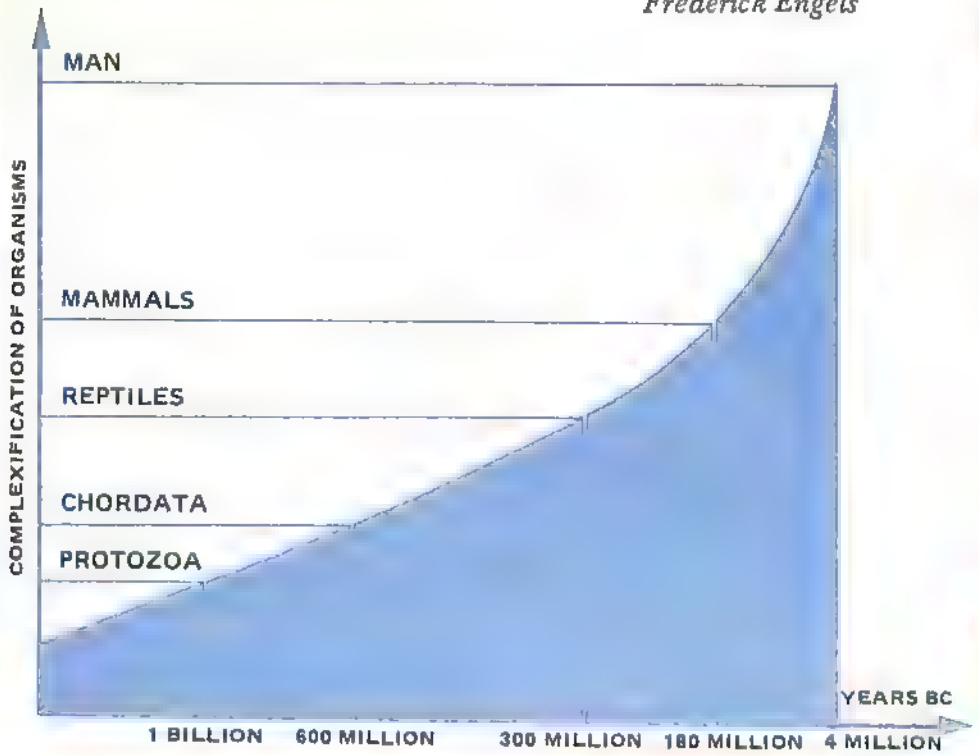
Frederick Engels



ACCELERATING PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NATURE AND THE SOCIETY

For the entire evolution of organism the law of acceleration according to the square of the distance in time from the point of departure is to be accepted.

Frederick Engels



PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATIONS

The primitive-communal system lasted over 1,000,000 years

The slave-holding system—over 10,000 years

The feudal system—over 1,000 years

The capitalist system exists 200-300 years

SOCIALISM HAS BEEN DEVELOPING FASTER THAN CAPITALISM

Life on the Earth originated roughly 3.5 billion years ago

CATEGORIES OF DIALECTICS

Categories are the most general concepts reflecting the essential connections, properties and relations of developing objects and phenomena.

Two philosophical tendencies, the metaphysical with fixed categories, the dialectical (Aristotle and especially Hegel) with fluid categories; the proofs that these fixed opposites of basis and consequence, cause and effect, identity and difference, appearance and essence are untenable, that analysis shows one pole already present in the other in nuce, that at a definite point the one pole becomes transformed into the other, and that all logic develops only from these progressing contradictions. *Frederick Engels*

METAPHYSICS

OVERESTIMATION OF SOME CATEGORIES AND UNDERESTIMATION OF OPPOSITE ONES, THINKING ACCORDING TO THE FORMULA:

EITHER – OR

INDIVIDUAL	GENERAL
CAUSE	EFFECT
NECESSITY	CHANCE
CONTENT	FORM
ESSENCE	APPEARANCE
POSSIBILITY	REALITY

DIALECTICS

ALL OPPOSITE CATEGORIES CONDITION EACH OTHER, AND THE ANTITHESIS BETWEEN THEM IS NOT ABSOLUTE, BUT RELATIVE

INDIVIDUAL	GENERAL
CAUSE	EFFECT
NECESSITY	CHANCE
CONTENT	FORM
ESSENCE	APPEARANCE
POSSIBILITY	REALITY

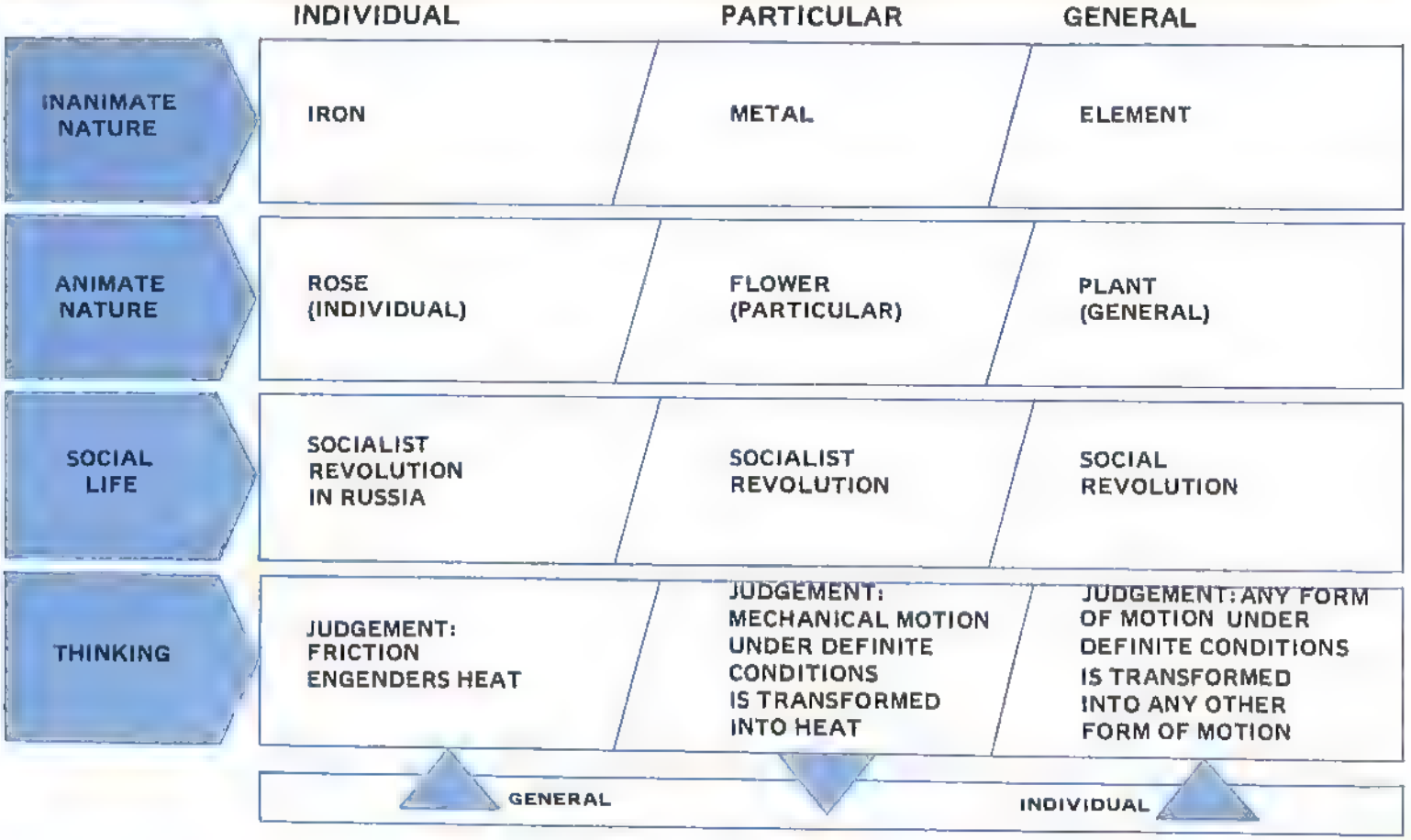
INDIVIDUAL, PARTICULAR, GENERAL

The individual exists only in the connection that leads to the universal.

V. I. Lenin

The universal exists only in the individual and through the individual.

V. I. Lenin



CAUSE AND EFFECT

Cause is a phenomenon which engenders another phenomenon

Effect is the result of the operation of the cause

Cognition of the common cause of many phenomena explains these phenomena, synthesises them and projects the direction of their change.

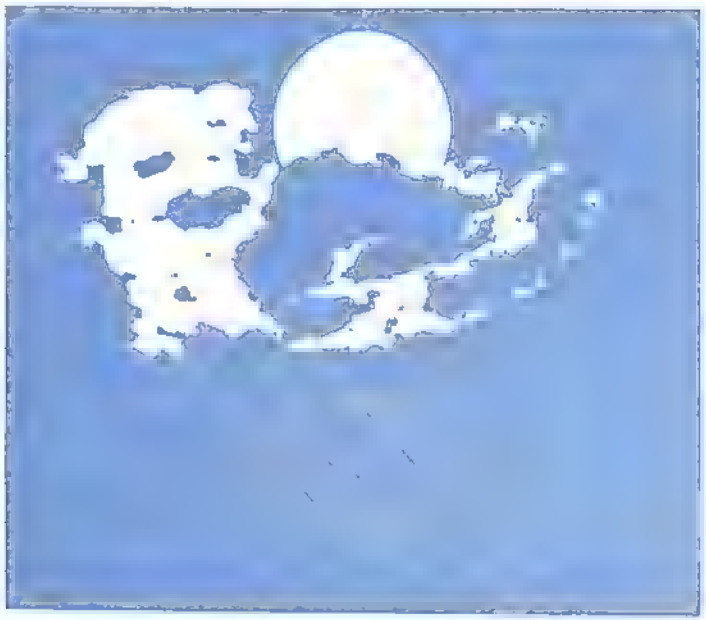
Cause and effect ... are merely moments of universal reciprocal dependence, of (universal) connection, of the reciprocal concatenation of events, merely links in the chain of the development of matter.

V. I. Lenin

NECESSITY AND CHANCE

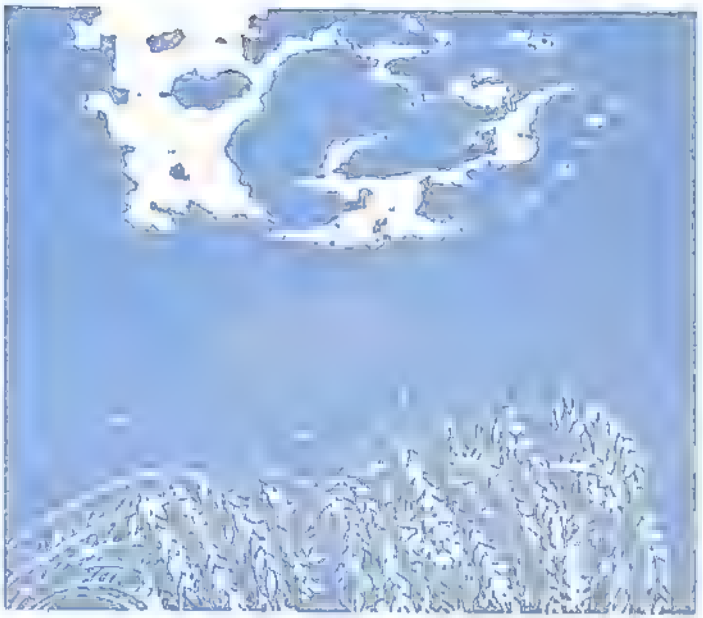
Necessity
is that which must inevitably occur in definite conditions.

Atmospheric precipitations in the form of rain or hail in definite conditions are a necessity.



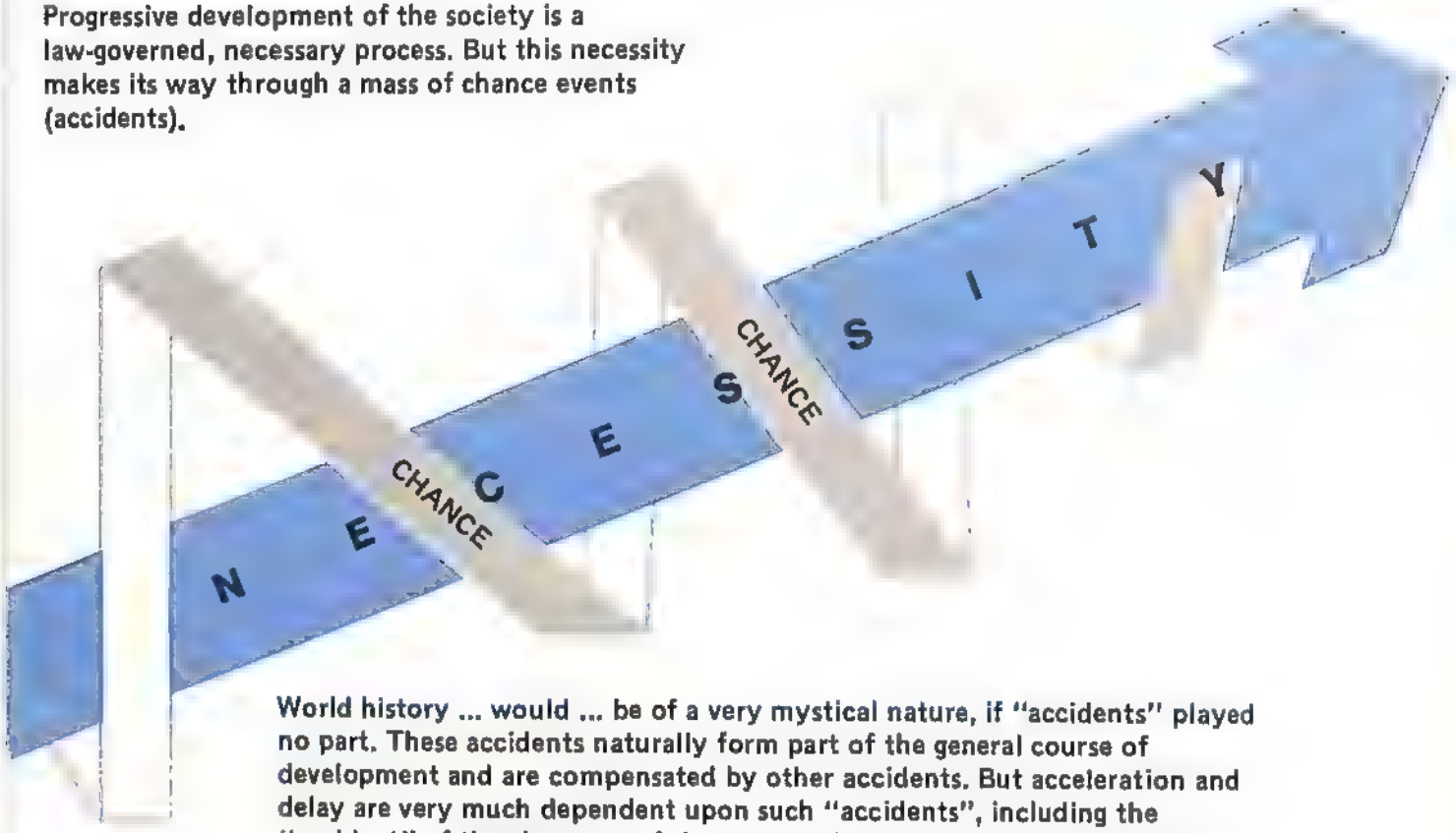
Chance
is that which can either occur or not occur in definite conditions, which can occur in one way or another.

Crop damage caused by hail-stones in a particular field is a chance event.



CHANCE AS A FORM OF MANIFESTATION AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF NECESSITY

Progressive development of the society is a law-governed, necessary process. But this necessity makes its way through a mass of chance events (accidents).



World history ... would ... be of a very mystical nature, if "accidents" played no part. These accidents naturally form part of the general course of development and are compensated by other accidents. But acceleration and delay are very much dependent upon such "accidents", including the "accident" of the character of the people who first head the movement.

Karl Marx

TRANSFORMATION OF CHANCE INTO NECESSITY

Wage-labour ... is very ancient; in a sporadic, scattered form it existed ... alongside slave-labour. But the embryo could duly develop into the capitalistic mode of production only when the necessary historical preconditions had been furnished.

Frederick Engels

CHANCE	NECESSITY
WAGE-LABOUR IN THE SLAVE-HOLDING SOCIETY	WAGE-LABOUR IN THE CAPITALIST SOCIETY
EXCHANGE OF ACCIDENTAL SURPLUSES OF PRODUCTS IN THE PRIMITIVE SOCIETY	EXCHANGE OF COMMODITIES IN SUBSEQUENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATIONS

The British scientist Charles Darwin proved that the necessary traits of plants and animals arise in a natural way from accidental traits.

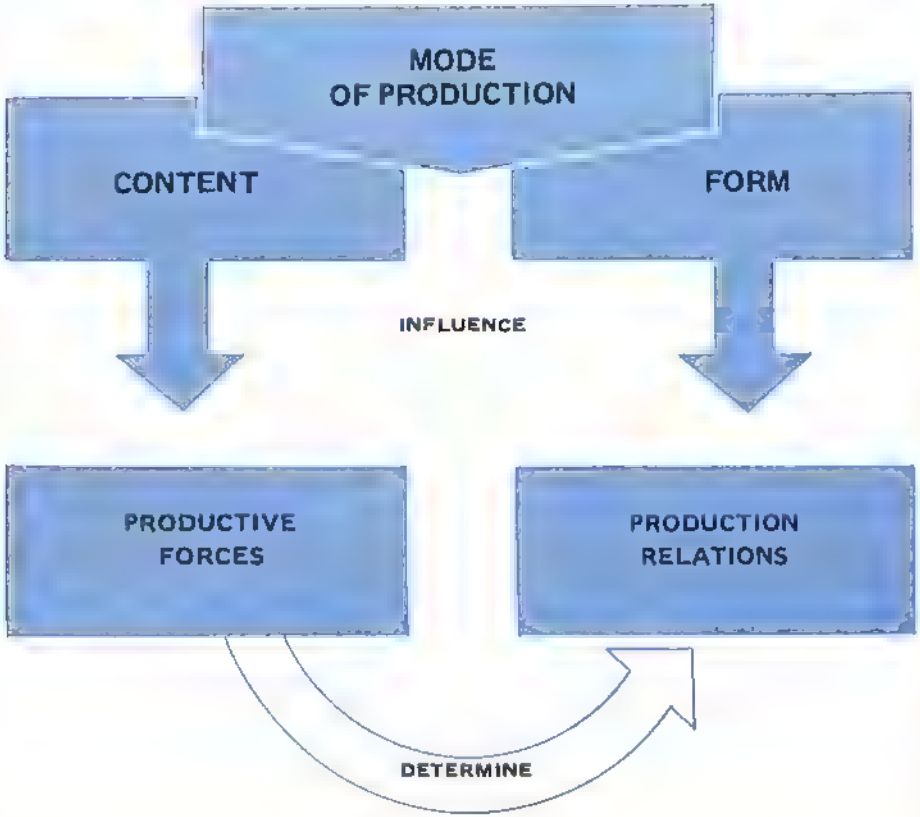
An enlarged crop is an accidental trait in ordinary pigeons.

A large crop is a necessary trait in pouter pigeons.

CONTENT AND FORM

Content is an aggregation of all the elements, their interactions and changes peculiar to the phenomenon

Form is a relatively stable system of connections among the elements of the phenomenon's content, the mode of the content's existence



CONTENT DETERMINES FORM

CONTENT CHANGES FASTER THAN FORM, AND CONTRADICTIONS ARISE BETWEEN THEM

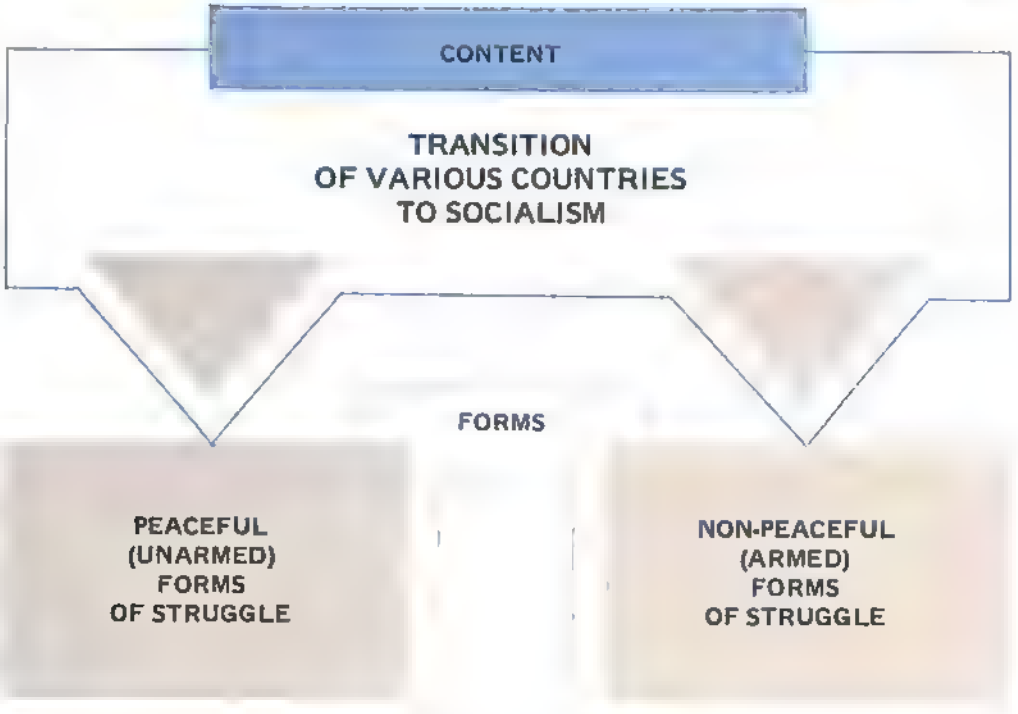
THE NEW CONTENT SHEDS THE OBSOLETE FORM AND REPLACES IT WITH ANOTHER FORM, CORRESPONDING TO THE CONTENT

THE FORM ACTIVELY INFLUENCES THE CONTENT: A NEW FORM ACCELERATES ITS DEVELOPMENT, WHILE AN OBSOLETE ONE SLOWS IT DOWN

DIVERSE FORMS OF ONE AND THE SAME CONTENT

All nations will arrive at socialism—this is inevitable, but all will do so in not exactly the same way, each will contribute something of its own to some form of democracy, to some variety of the dictatorship of the proletariat, to the varying rate of socialist transformations in the different aspects of social life.

V. I. Lenin

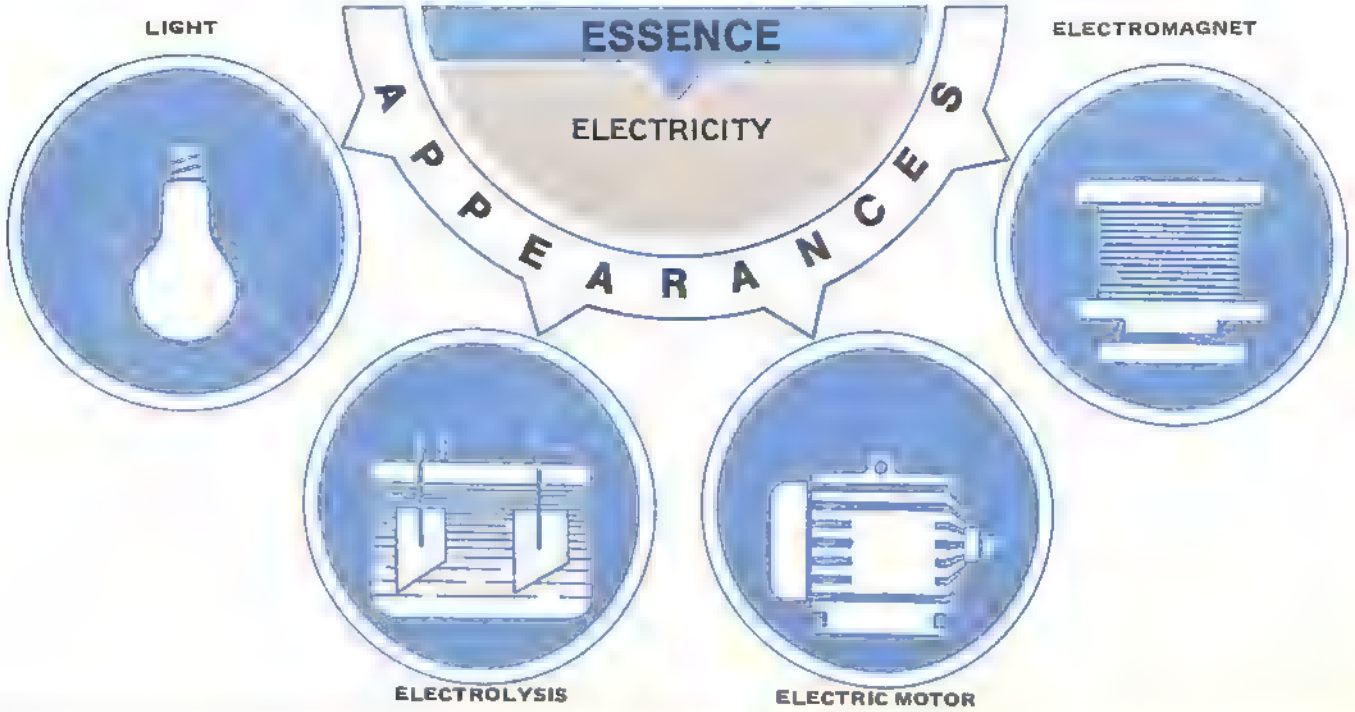


ESSENCE AND APPEARANCE

Essence is the inner, relatively stable side of objective reality, which is hidden under the surface of appearances and which determines them.

Appearance is the outer, changeable side of objective reality, which depends on the essence and is a form of its expression.

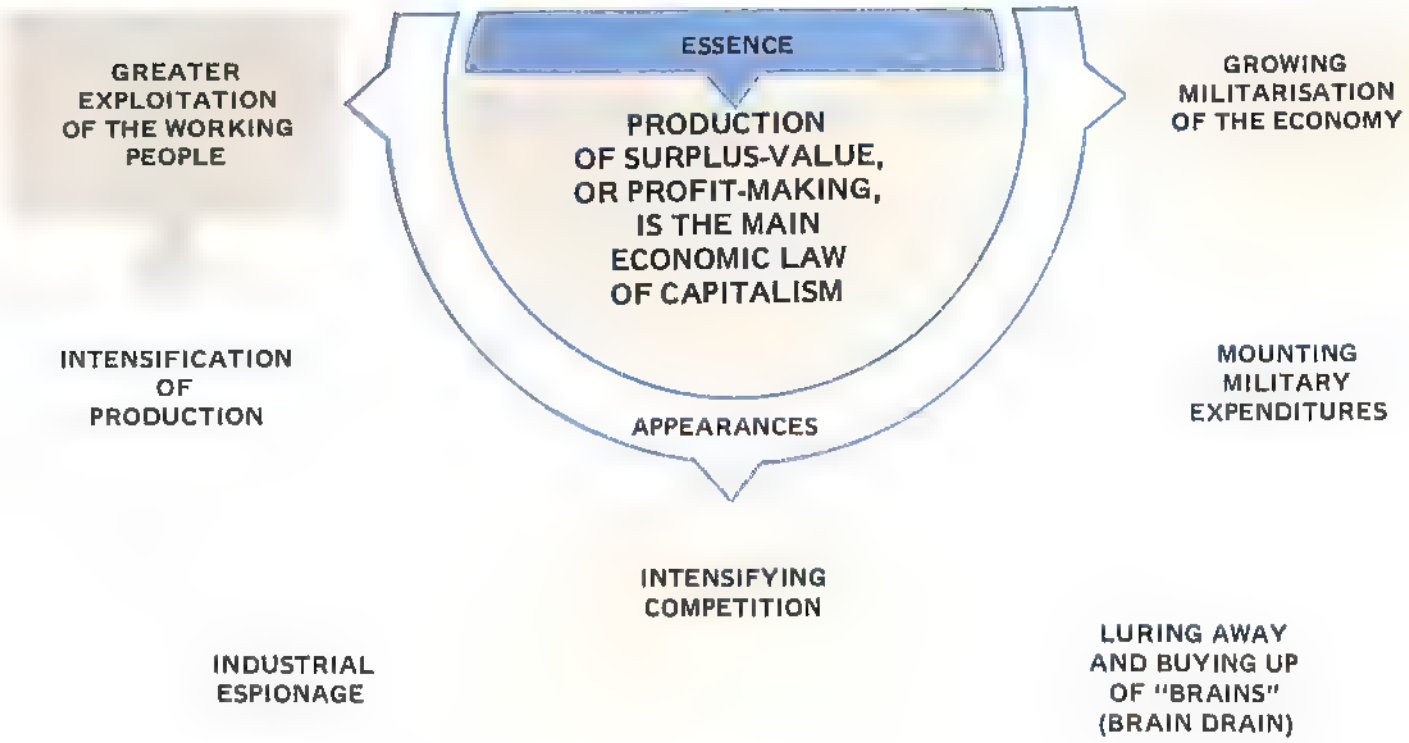
> The essence appears. The appearance is essential... Not only are appearances transitory, mobile, fluid, ... but the **essence** of things is so as well.
>
> *V. I. Lenin*



ESSENCE, LAW, APPEARANCE

Law and essence are concepts of the same kind (of the same order). Appearance is manifestation of essence.

V. I. Lenin



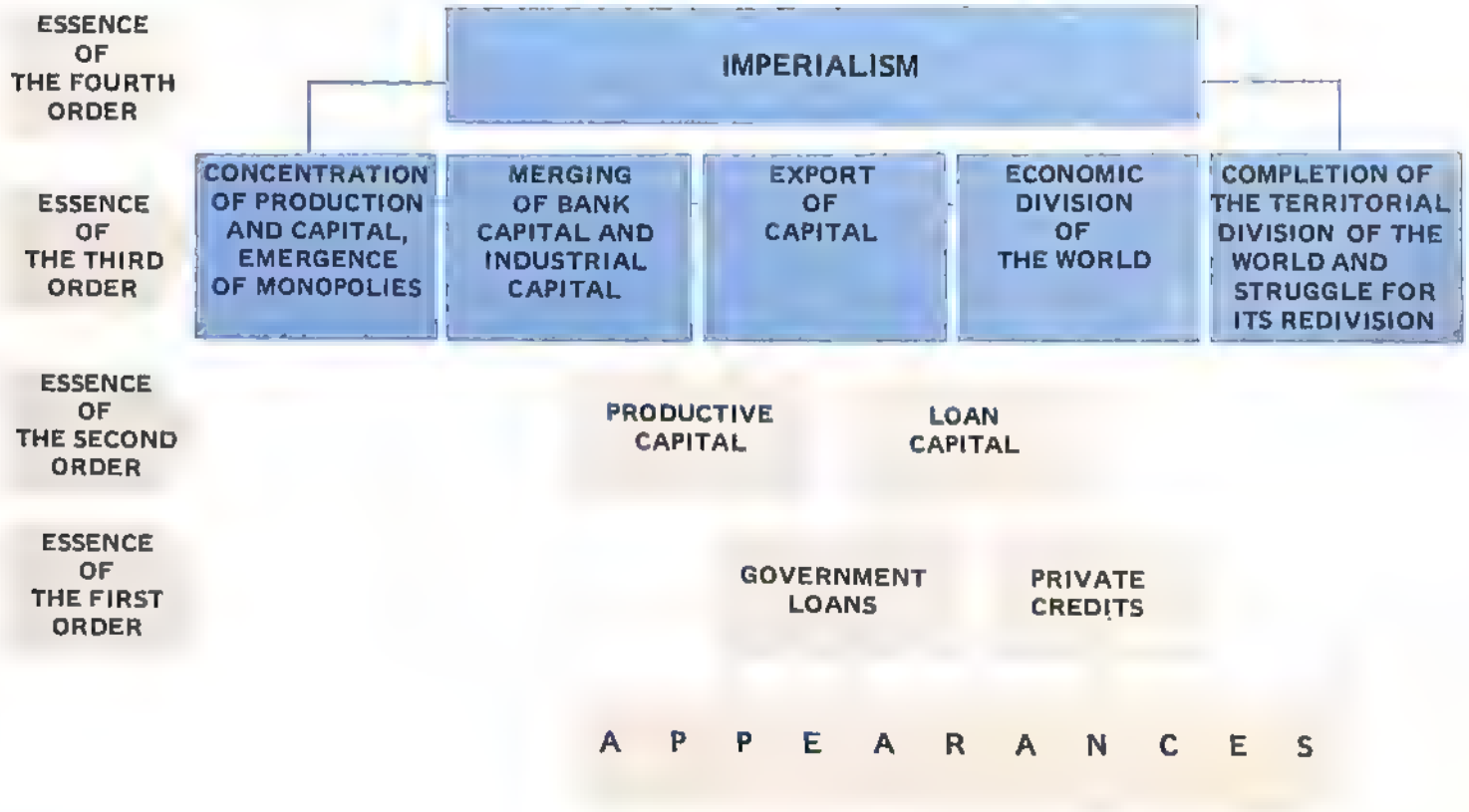
COGNITION OF ESSENCE

Human thought goes endlessly deeper from appearance to essence, from essence of the first order... to essence of the second order, and so on without end.

V. I. Lenin

All science would be superfluous if the outward appearance and the essence of things directly coincided.

Karl Marx



POSSIBILITY AND REALITY

Possibility is that which can arise from the uniformities of development, but which has not as yet occurred.

Reality is that which has occurred.

Impossibility is that which contradicts the uniformities of development, unrealised possibilities.

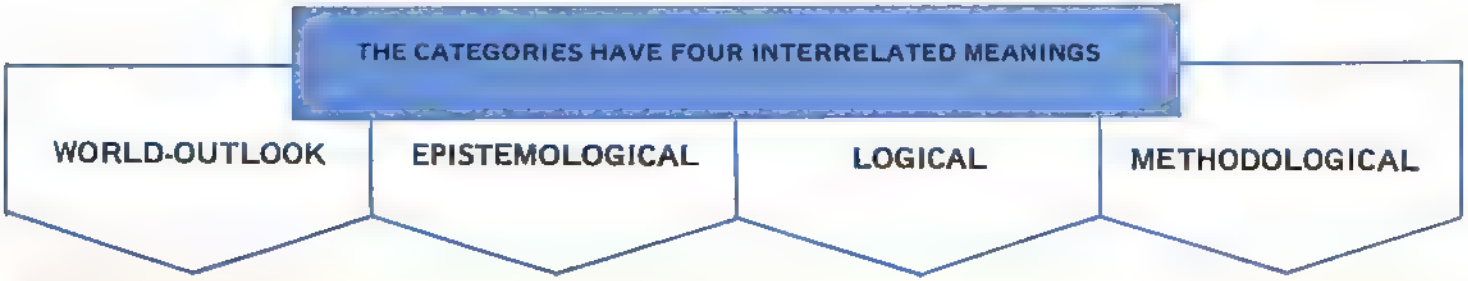
TYPES OF POSSIBILITIES

		EXAMPLES
PROGRESSIVE	EXPRESS THE TENDENCIES OF PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT	POSSIBILITY OF PRESERVING PEACE AND PREVENTING A THERMONUCLEAR WAR
REGRESSIVE (REACTIONARY)	LEAD TO STAGNATION, TO A REVIVAL OF THE OLD AND OBSOLETE	POSSIBILITY OF RESTORING REACTIONARY POLITICAL REGIMES OVERTHROWN BY THE PEOPLE
ACTUAL	ALL THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR THEIR REALISATION ARE ON HAND	POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING AN END TO THE FOREIGN DEPENDENCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
ABSTRACT	AT THE GIVEN STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, CONDITIONS FOR THEIR REALISATION ARE ABSENT, BUT CAN EMERGE IN THE FUTURE	POSSIBILITY OF MAN DEVELOPING OTHER PLANETS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MEANING OF THE CATEGORIES OF MATERIALIST DIALECTICS

Man is confronted with a web of natural phenomena. Instinctive man, the savage, does not distinguish himself from nature. Conscious man does distinguish, categories are stages of distinguishing, i. e., of cognising the world, focal points in the web, which assist in cognising and mastering it.

V. I. Lenin



Chapter

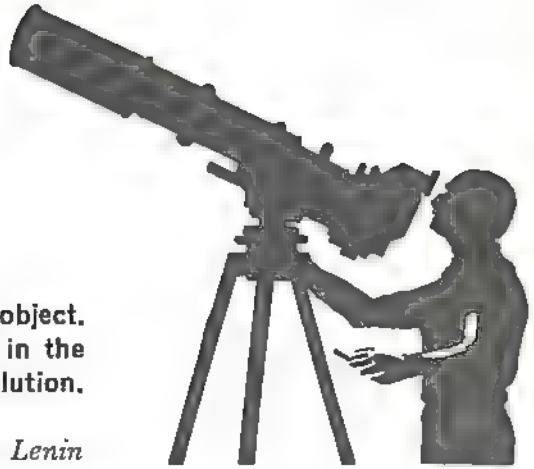
6

KNOWLEDGE AS A REFLECTION OF REALITY

In the theory of knowledge, as in every other sphere of science, we must think dialectically, that is, we must not regard our knowledge as ready-made and unalterable, but must determine how knowledge emerges from ignorance, how incomplete, inexact knowledge becomes more complete and more exact.

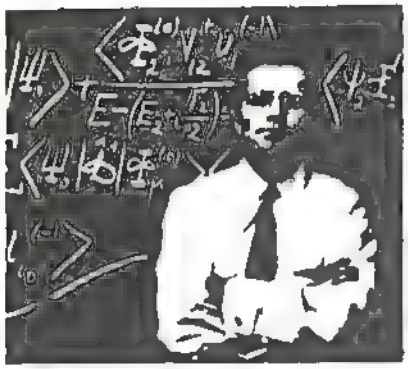
V. I. Lenin

CONTRADICTORY NATURE OF COGNITION



Cognition is the eternal, endless approximation of thought to the object. The reflection of nature in man's thought must be understood ... in the eternal process of movement, the arising of contradictions and their solution.

V. I. Lenin



Mankind ... finds itself faced with a contradiction: on the one hand, it has to gain an exhaustive knowledge of the world system in all its interrelations; and on the other hand, because of the nature both of men and of the world system, this task can never be completely fulfilled. But this contradiction lies not only in the nature of the two factors—the world, and man—it is also the main lever of all intellectual advance, and finds its solution continuously, day by day, in the endless progressive evolution of humanity... Each mental image of the world system is and remains in actual fact limited, objectively by the historical conditions and subjectively by the physical and mental constitution of its originator.

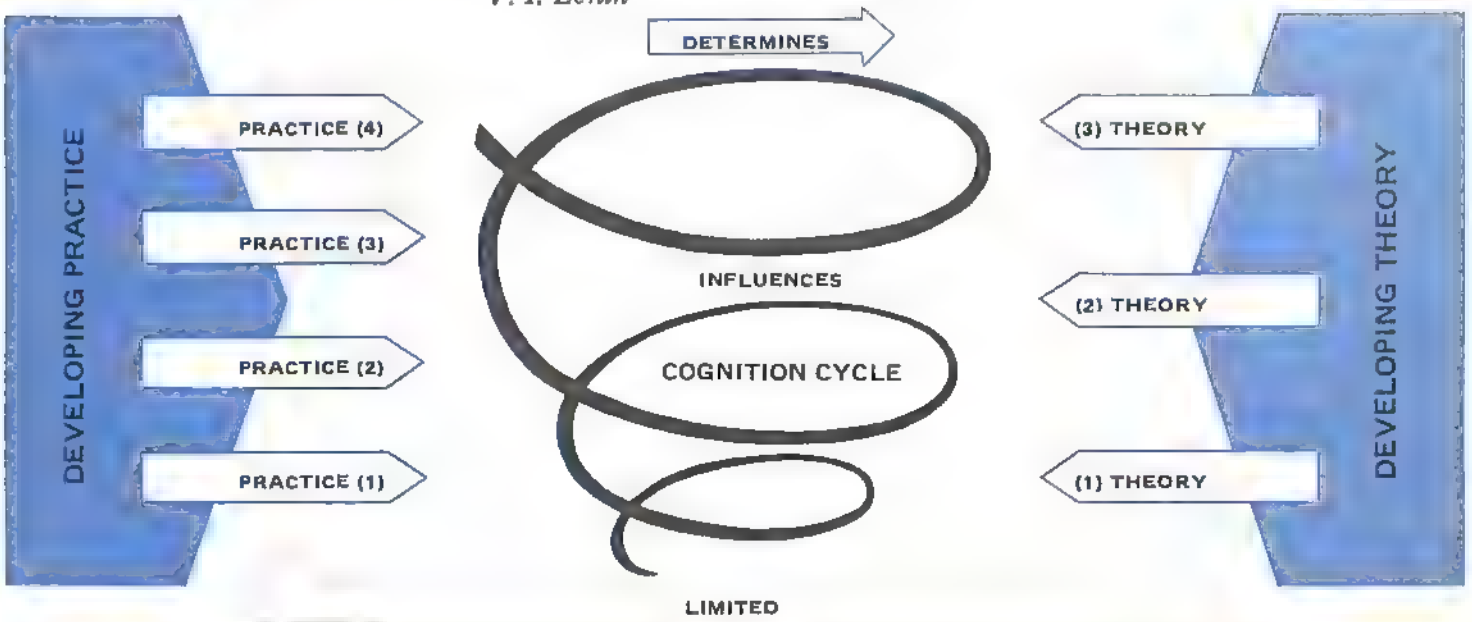
Frederick Engels

From living perception to abstract thought, and from this to practice,—such is the dialectical path of the cognition of truth, of the cognition of objective reality.

V. I. Lenin

Human knowledge is not ... a straight line, but a curve, which endlessly approximates a series of circles, a spiral.

V. I. Lenin



Practice is the material activity of men which transforms the world.

Theory is a reflection of the objective uniformities of the world, a logical generalisation of experience and of social practice.

MAIN STAGES OF THE COGNITION PROCESS

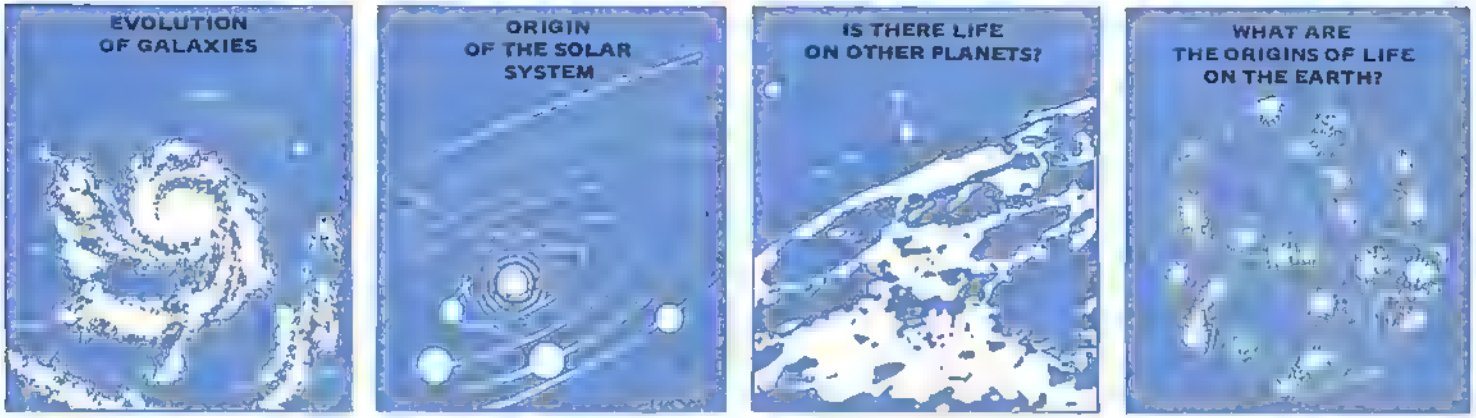
STAGES	FORMS	EXAMPLES
SENSORY cognition through the sense organs: eyesight, hearing, touch, taste, smell Direct and concrete reflection of reality	SENSATION: REFLECTION OF SOME PROPERTIES OF OBJECTS ACTING ON THE SENSE ORGANS	RED, RINGING, HARD, SOUR, FRAGRANT
	PERCEPTION: INTEGRAL REFLECTION OF OBJECTS ACTING ON THE SENSE ORGANS	IMAGE OF A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL, ANIMAL, PLANT, STONE
	REPRESENTATION: REPRODUCTION IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF PHENOMENA WHICH ACTED ON THE SENSE ORGANS IN THE PAST	RECOLLECTION OF THE TASTE OF FRUITS, THE SMELL OF FLOWERS, THE IMAGES OF PEOPLE OR OBJECTS
LOGICAL (rational)— cognition through abstract thinking, language Generalised and mediated reflection of reality	CONCEPT: A THOUGHT REFLECTING THE GENERAL AND ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF OBJECTS	MAN, PLANT, ANIMAL
	JUDGEMENT: A THOUGHT REFLECTING A PHENOMENON IN ITS CONNECTION WITH OTHER PHENOMENA	JOHN IS A MAN LEAVES ARE GREEN
	INFERENCE: A PROCESS OF THINKING AS A RESULT OF WHICH A NEW JUDGEMENT IS DEDUCED FROM TWO OR MORE JUDGEMENTS	ALL METALS ARE ELECTRO-CONDUCTIVE. COPPER IS A METAL. CONSEQUENTLY, COPPER IS ELECTRO-CONDUCTIVE

HYPOTHESIS AS A FORM OF COGNITION

Hypothesis
is a scientific supposition put forward in explanation of some phenomenon, which has to be tested in practice and confirmed with facts in order to become a valid scientific theory.

The form of development of natural science, in so far as it thinks, is the hypothesis. A new fact is observed which makes impossible the previous method of explaining the facts belonging to the same group. From this moment onwards new methods of explanation are required—at first based on only a limited number of facts and observations. Further observational material weeds out these hypotheses, doing away with some and correcting others, until finally the law is established in a pure form.

Frederick Engels



The materialist view of history emerged as a hypothesis. Upon the publication of Marx's Capital, it was no longer a hypothesis, but a scientifically substantiated theory.

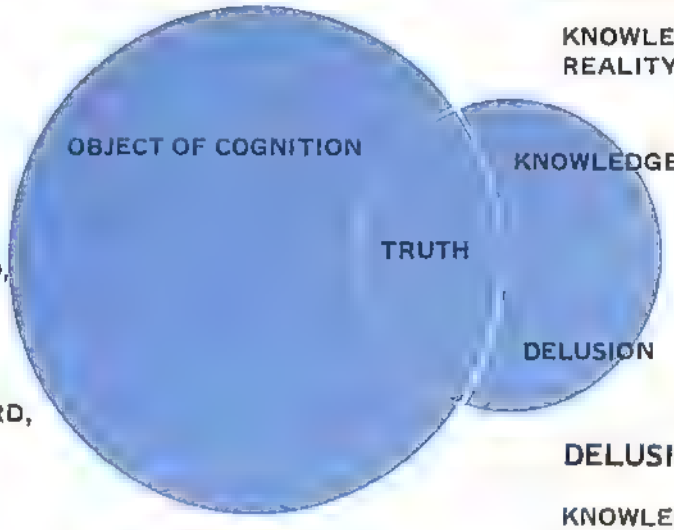
OBJECTIVE TRUTH
is that content of knowledge which does not depend on human beings, for it is determined by the external world, which exists objectively.

RELATIVE TRUTH

PARTIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF KNOWLEDGE TO REALITY: KNOWLEDGE WHICH WILL BE SPECIFIED IN THE COURSE OF FURTHER COGNITION

ABSOLUTE TRUTH

IN THE BROAD SENSE OF THE WORD, FULL CORRESPONDENCE OF KNOWLEDGE TO REALITY, AN EXHAUSTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD, THE GOAL OF SCIENCE.
IN THE NARROW SENSE OF THE WORD, A STATEMENT OF FACT: A KNOWLEDGE OF SEPARATE TENDENCIES, CONNECTIONS AND LAWS; THAT CONTENT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE WHICH WILL NOT CHANGE IN THE COURSE OF FURTHER COGNITION



TRUTH

KNOWLEDGE CORRESPONDING TO REALITY

DELUSION

KNOWLEDGE WHICH DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY

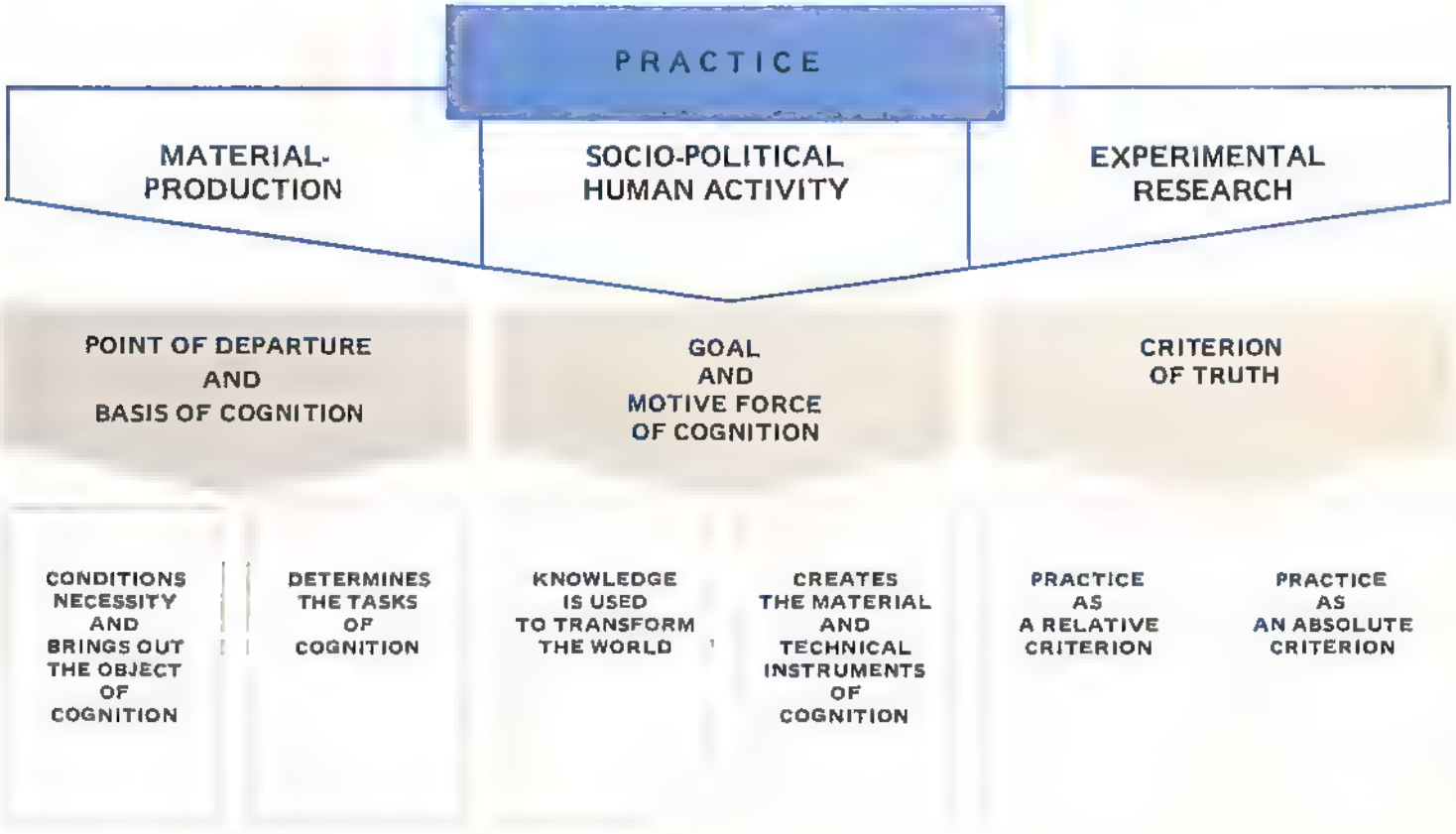
Human thought then by its nature is capable of giving and does give absolute truth which is compounded of a sum-total of relative truths. Each step in the development of science adds new grains to the sum of absolute truth, but the limits of the truth of each scientific proposition are relative, now expanding, now shrinking with the growth of knowledge.

V. I. Lenin

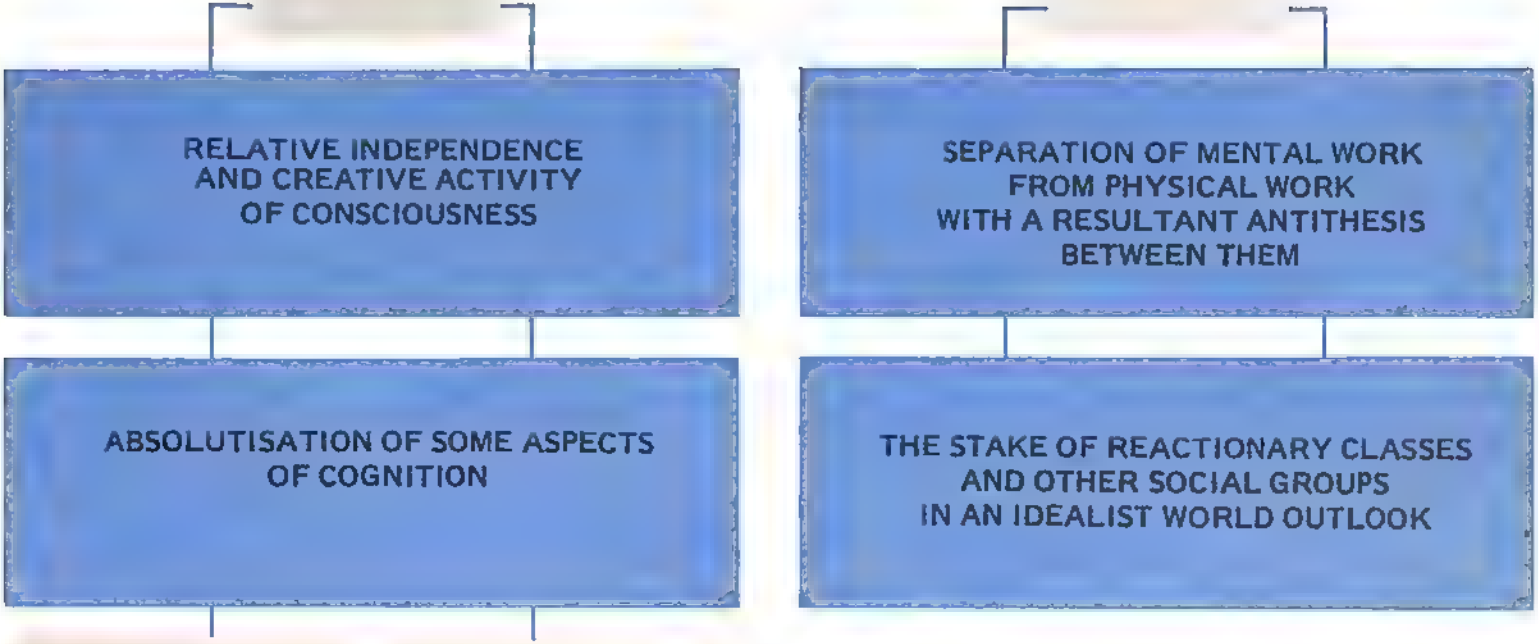
ROLE OF PRACTICE IN COGNITION

The standpoint of life, of practice, should be first and fundamental in the theory of knowledge.

V. I. Lenin



EPISTEMOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-CLASS ROOTS OF IDEALISM



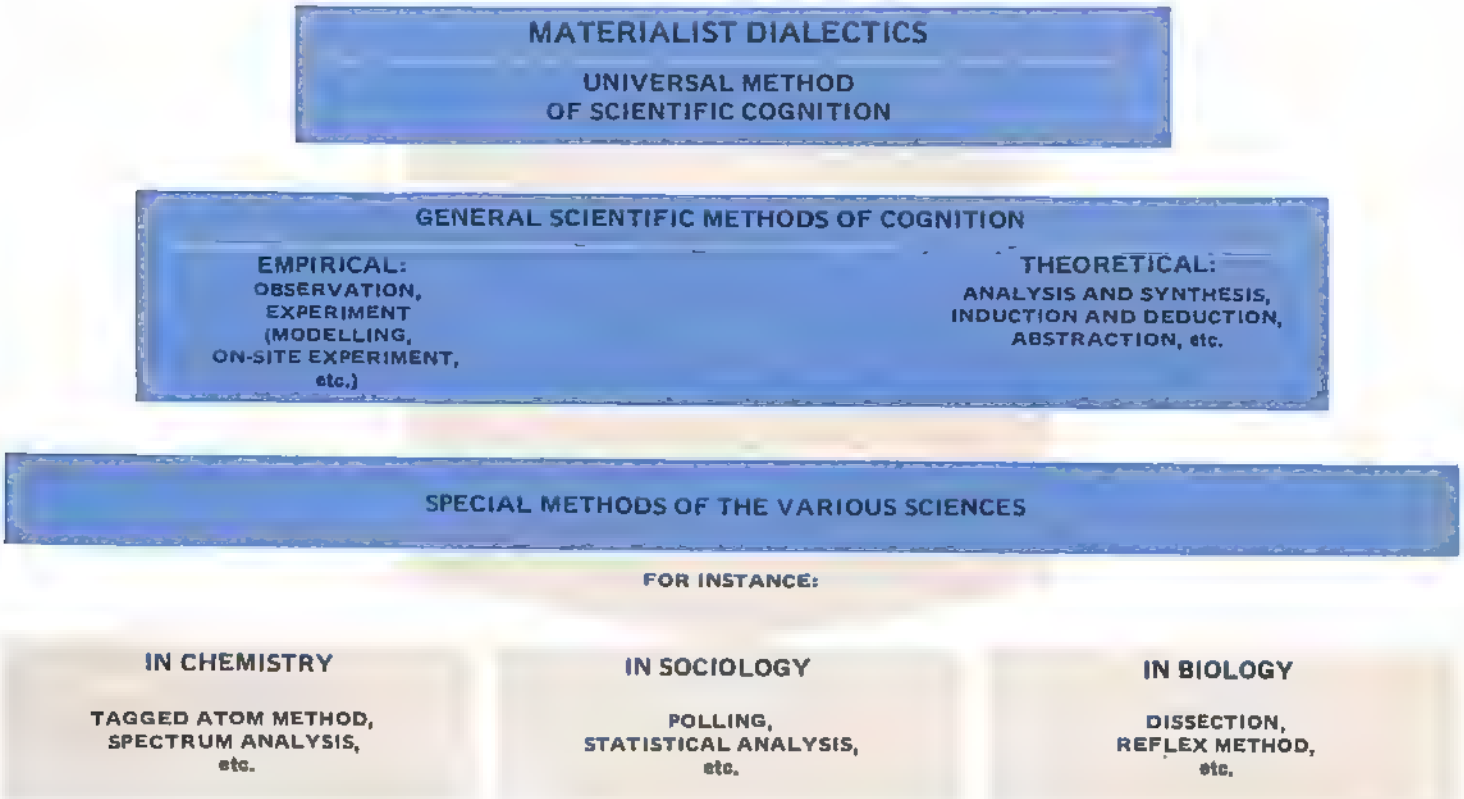
At a very early stage in the development of society ... merit for the swift advance of civilisation was ascribed to the mind, to the development and activity of the brain. Men became accustomed to explain their actions as arising out of thoughts instead of their needs (which in any case are reflected and perceived in the mind); and so in the course of time there emerged that idealistic world outlook.

Frederick Engels

METHODS OF SCIENTIFIC COGNITION

Dialectics ... offers the analogue for, and thereby the method of explaining, the evolutionary processes occurring in nature...

Frederick Engels



HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

Chapter

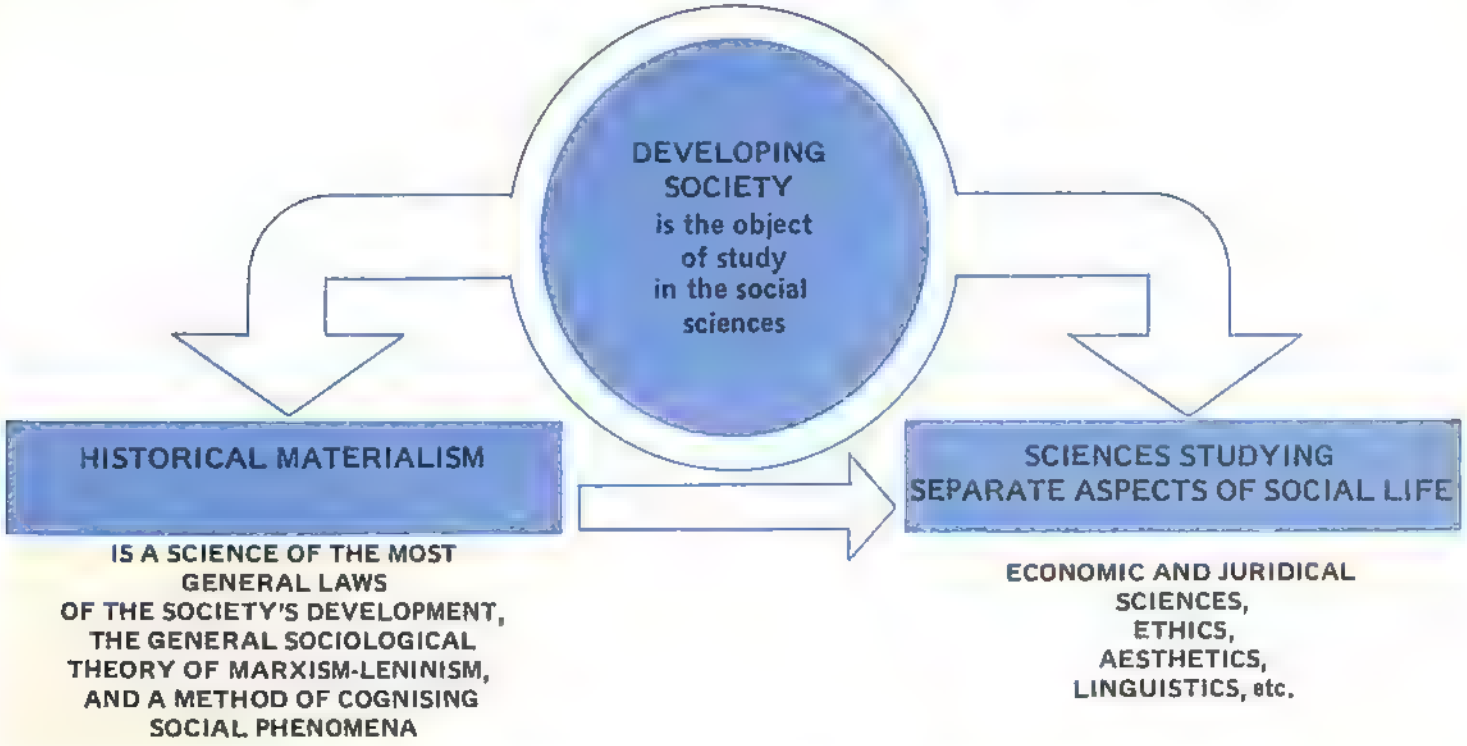
Modern materialism sees in [history] the process of evolution of humanity, and aims at discovering the laws thereof.

Frederick Engels

SUBJECT-MATTER OF HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

HISTORICAL MATERIALISM AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

IN CONTRAST TO SPECIAL SOCIAL SCIENCES, WHICH STUDY SEPARATE ASPECTS OF SOCIAL LIFE, HISTORICAL MATERIALISM STUDIES SOCIAL LIFE AS A WHOLE, THE INTERCONNECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ITS VARIOUS ASPECTS.



Historical materialism develops on the strength of data taken from the social sciences and, for its part, helps to develop all these sciences.

[Marx's] historical materialism was a great achievement in scientific thinking. The chaos and arbitrariness that had previously reigned in views on history and politics were replaced by a strikingly integral and harmonious scientific theory.

V. I. Lenin

MARX GAVE
A SCIENTIFIC SOLUTION
OF SEEMINGLY INSOLUBLE
PROBLEMS:

THE PROBLEM
OF ELIMINATING
EXPLOITATION,

THE PROBLEM
OF ELIMINATING
NATIONAL OPPRESSION,

THE PROBLEM
OF ELIMINATING WARS

THE REVOLUTION CARRIED OUT BY MARX AND ENGELS IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTS IN THAT

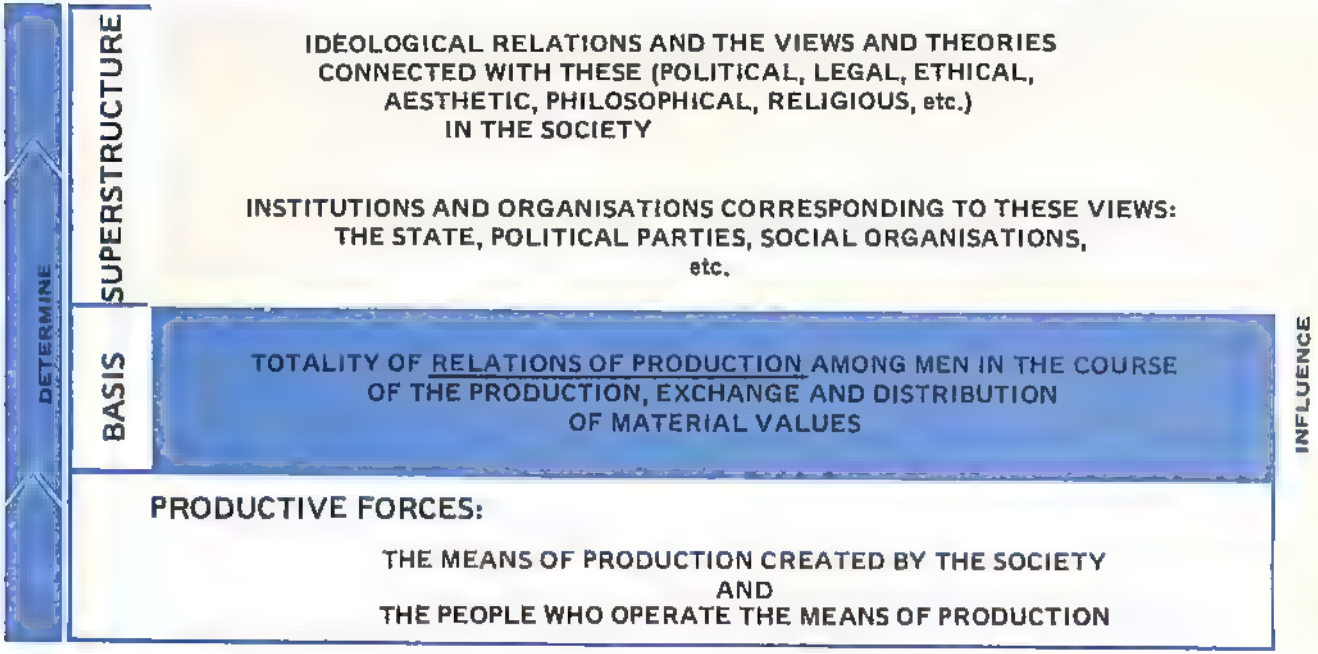
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY GAVE A MATERIALIST ANSWER TO THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLICATION TO THE SOCIETY, DISCOVERED THE LAW OF THE DETERMINING ROLE OF SOCIAL BEING IN RELATION TO SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS, SUBSTANTIATED THE DECISIVE ROLE OF THE MASSES IN HISTORY	THEY SHOWED THE OBJECTIVE DIALECTICS OF THE SOCIETY'S DEVELOPMENT, PRESENTING SOCIAL HISTORY AS A LAW-GOVERNED PROCESS OF THE EMERGENCE, DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESSION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATIONS	ON THE BASIS OF THE DISCOVERED LAWS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, THEY SHOWED THE INEVITABILITY OF A TRANSITION FROM CAPITALISM TO SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATION

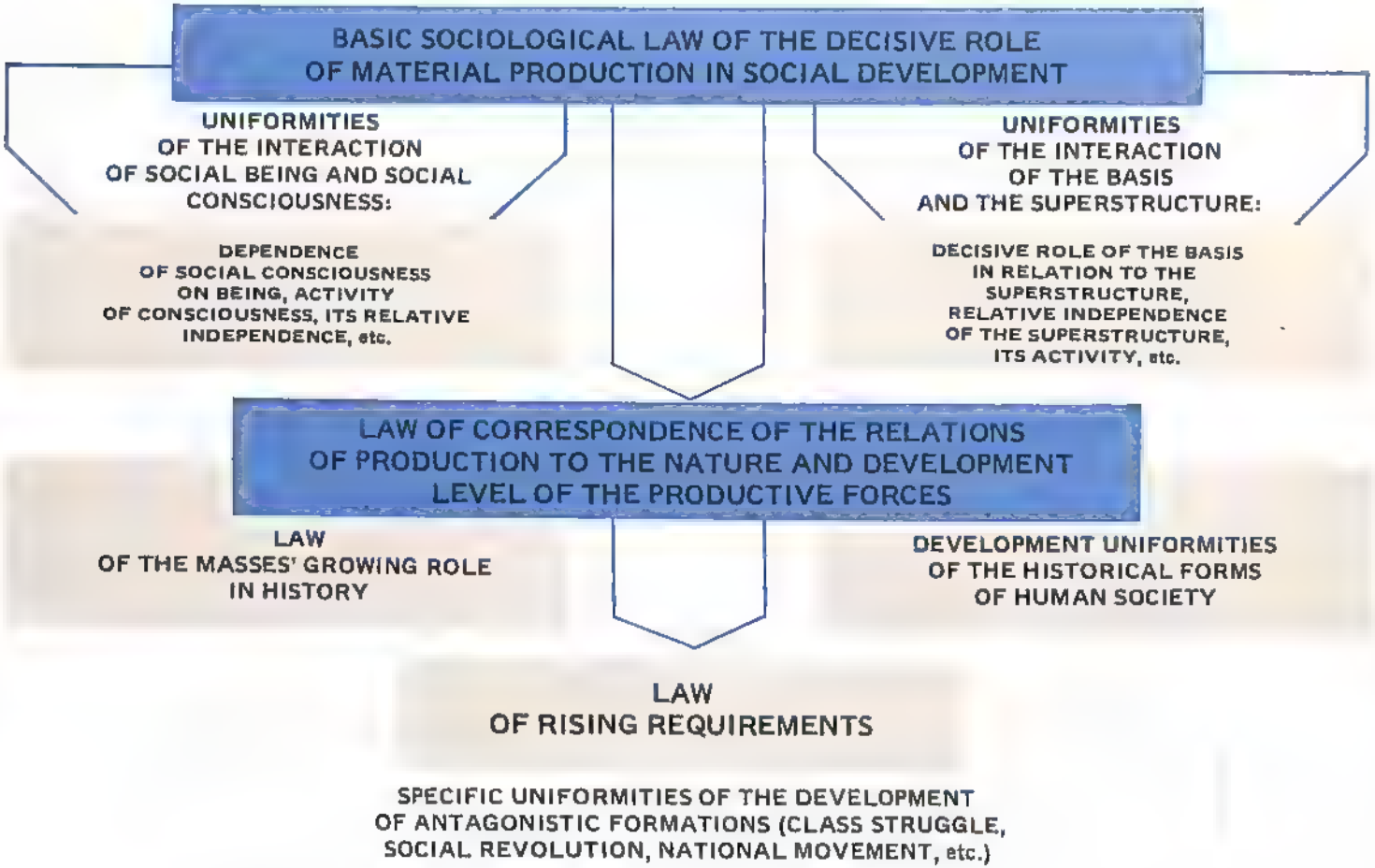
INTERCONNECTION OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS

In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite relations, which are independent of their will, namely relations of production appropriate to a given stage in the development of their material forces of production. The totality of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society, the real foundation, on which arises a legal and political superstructure and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness.

Karl Marx



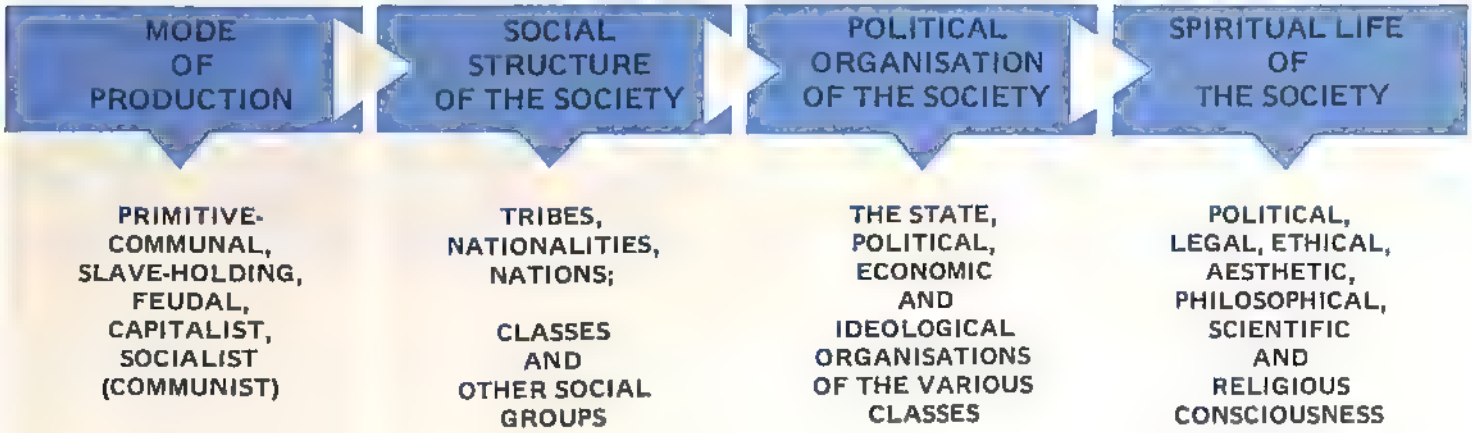
GENERAL SOCIOLOGICAL LAWS AND UNIFORMITIES



BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL LAW

The mode of production of material life conditions the general process of social, political and intellectual life.

Karl Marx



On the development of the productive forces depend the relations into which men enter with one another in the production of the things required for the satisfaction of human needs. And in these relations lies the explanation of all the phenomena of social life, human aspirations, ideas and laws.

V. I. Lenin

DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE LAWS OF SOCIETY AND THE LAWS OF NATURE

THE LAWS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THE LAWS OF NATURE. THE SOCIAL FORM OF THE MOTION OF MATTER IS ITS HIGHEST FORM, ARISING ON THE BASIS OF LOWER FORMS

THE LAWS OF NATURE ARE MORE LASTING THAN SOCIAL LAWS

IN NATURE, LAWS MANIFEST THEMSELVES THROUGH THE INTERACTION OF ELEMENTAL FORCES

IN THE SOCIETY, LAWS MANIFEST THEMSELVES THROUGH THE ACTIVITY OF CONSCIOUS HUMAN BEINGS

This distinction, important as it is for historical investigation ... cannot alter the fact that the course of history is governed by inner general laws.

Frederick Engels

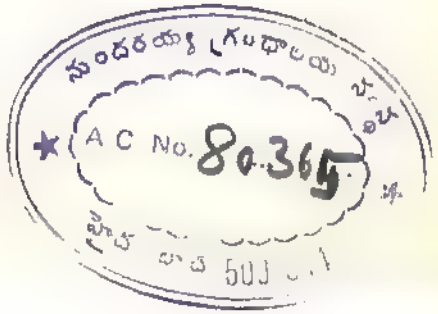
THE LAWS OF NATURE ARE NEUTRAL AS REGARDS THE SOCIAL POSITION OF VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS

THE LAWS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AFFECT THE INTERESTS OF CLASSES AND OTHER SOCIAL GROUPS

THAT IS WHY THE DISCOVERY OF NATURAL LAWS PROCEEDS FAIRLY SMOOTHLY, WHILE THE LAWS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE A FOCAL POINT IN THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN CLASSES

In the analysis of economic forms ... neither microscopes nor chemical reagents are of use. The force of abstraction must replace both.

Karl Marx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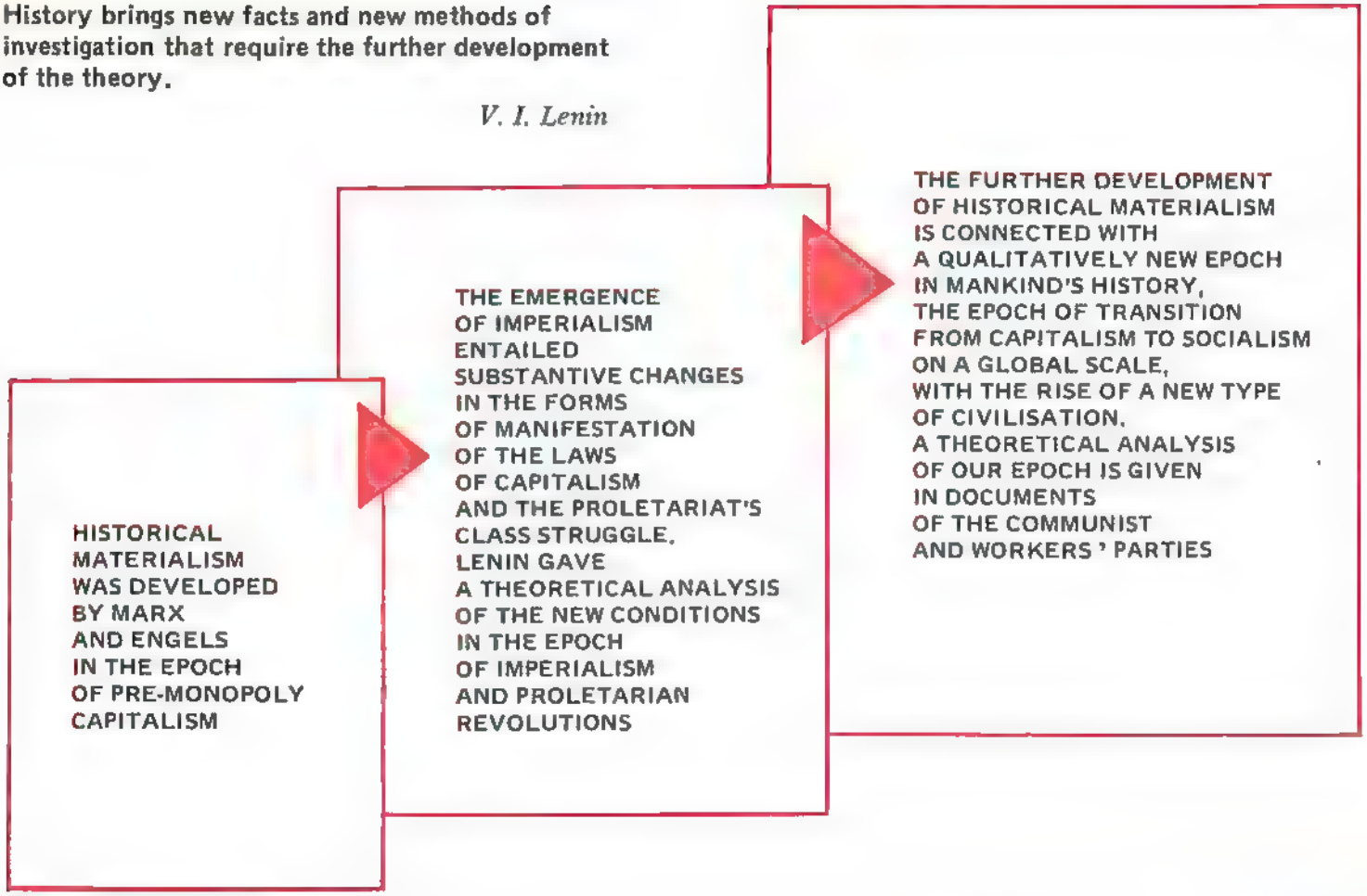
CREATIVE NATURE OF HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

History brings new facts and new methods of investigation that require the further development of the theory.

V. I. Lenin



Chapter

8

NATURE AND THE SOCIETY

The animal merely uses its environment ... man by his changes makes it serve his ends, masters it ... and once again it is labour that brings about this distinction.

...At every step we are reminded that we by no means rule over nature like a conqueror over a foreign people, like someone standing outside nature—but that we, with flesh, blood and brain, belong to nature, and exist in its midst, and that all our mastery of it consists in the fact that we have the advantage over all other creatures of being able to learn its laws and apply them correctly.

Frederick Engels

INFLUENCE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ON THE SOCIETY'S DEVELOPMENT

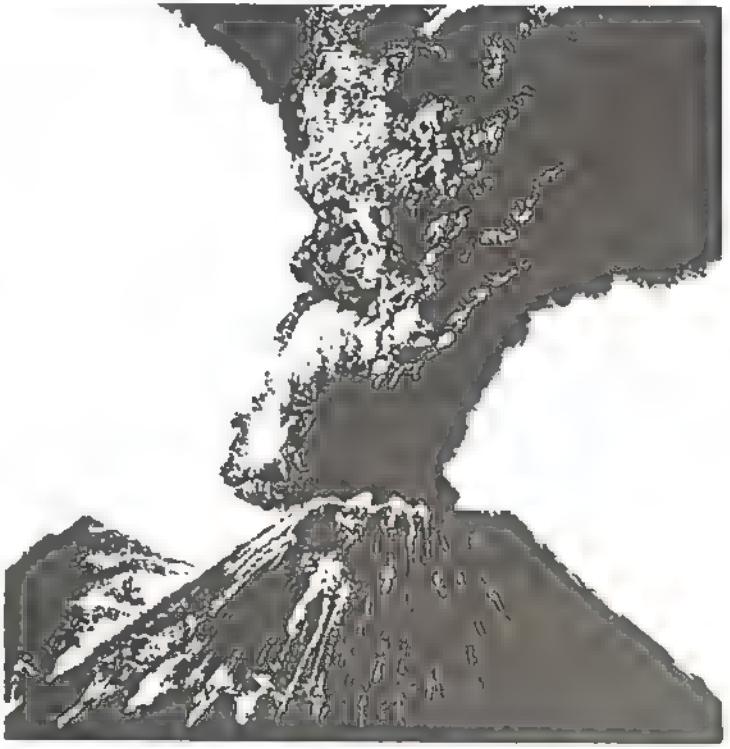
The environment influences the society's development, accelerating or slowing it down in various countries.

The environment influences the division and productivity of labour.

Where Nature is too lavish, she "keeps [man] in hand, like a child in leading-strings". She does not impose upon him any necessity to develop himself. It is not the tropics with their luxuriant vegetation, but the temperate zone, that is the mother-country of capital. It is not the mere fertility of the soil, but the differentiation of the soil, the variety of its natural products, the changes of the seasons, which form the physical basis for the social division of labour... The result of difference in the natural conditions of labour is this, that the same quantity of labour satisfies, in different countries, a different mass of requirements.

Karl Marx

The geography of different countries (mountains, plains, insularity) facilitated or hindered contacts between peoples, so accelerating or slowing down their development.



Earthquakes, floods, tropical rains, sand storms and hot dry winds, locust swarms and other natural phenomena have an adverse effect on the development of countries.

MAIN LINES
OF THE SOCIETY'S INFLUENCE ON NATURE

EXPANSION OF THE BOUNDARIES
IN THE HUMAN MASTERY OF NATURE

INTENSIFYING USE
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REGULATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES
AS THESE ARE COGNISED

CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE
OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL ENVIRONMENT,
CREATION OF ARTIFICIAL NATURE

With the society's progressive development, its direct dependence on natural forces is reduced. At the same time, the society enters into ever deeper and broader contacts with nature, drawing ever more natural objects and processes into its sphere of activity.

PLUNDER OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNDER CAPITALISM

Cultivation when it progresses spontaneously and is not consciously controlled ... leaves deserts behind it...

Karl Marx

All progress in capitalistic agriculture is a progress in the art, not only of robbing the labourer, but of robbing the soil...

Karl Marx

Haphazard interference in natural processes (uncontrolled deforestation, rapacious hunting, pollution of the environment with industrial and everyday waste) upsets the natural balance and has an adverse effect on the society.

RATIONAL ATTITUDE TO NATURE UNDER SOCIALISM

Under socialism, people can regulate their interchange with Nature, bringing it under their common control, instead of being ruled by it as by the blind forces of Nature, and achieving this with the least expenditure of energy and under conditions most favourable to, and worthy of, their human nature.

Karl Marx

Even a whole society, a nation, or even all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the globe. They are only its possessors, its usufructuaries, and, like boni patres familias, they must hand it down to succeeding generations in an improved condition.

Karl Marx

IRRIGATION OF LAND

SHELTERBELT AFFORESTATION

WATERING OF PASTURES

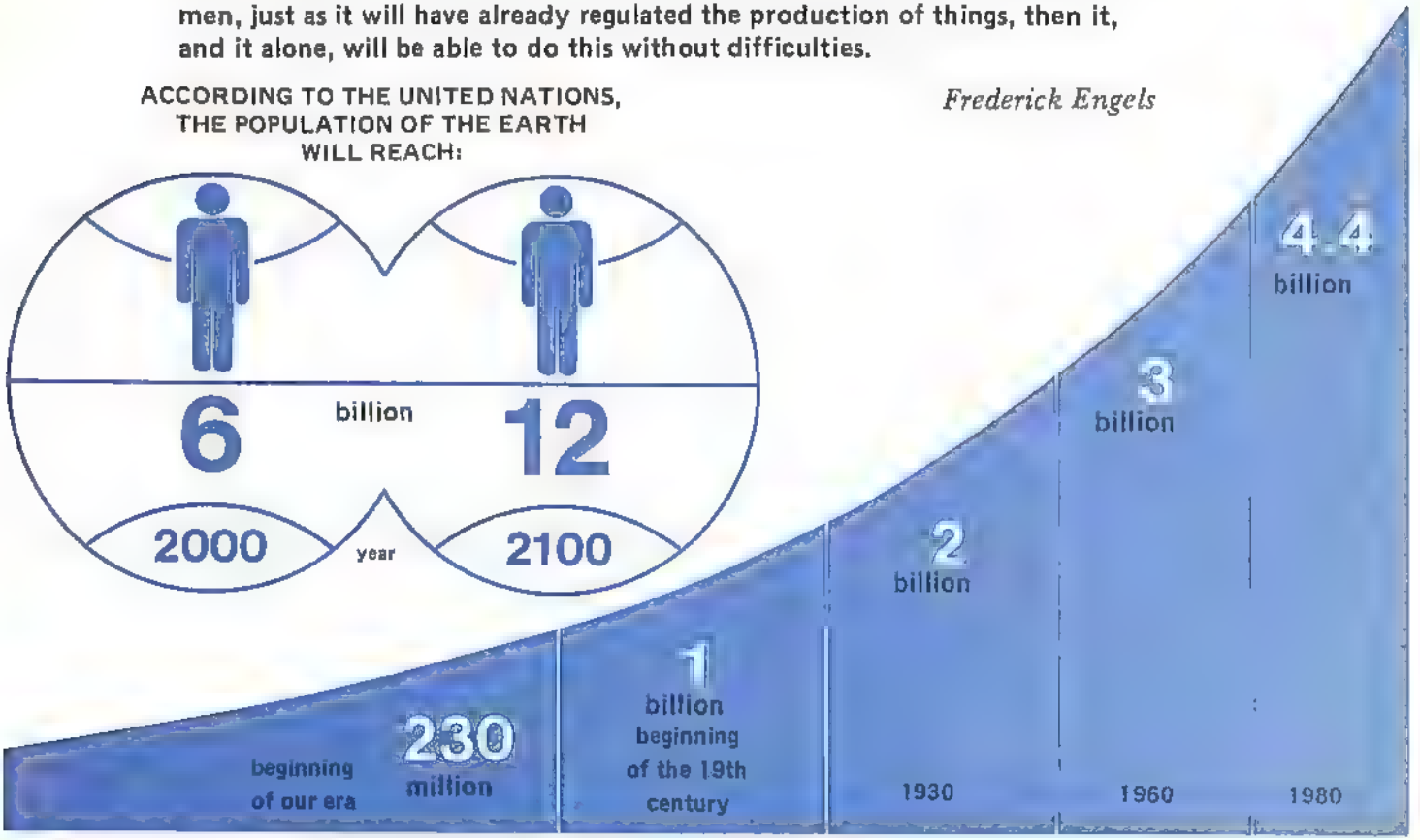
LAND RECLAMATION

DYNAMICS OF THE WORLD POPULATION

There is of course the abstract possibility that the human population will become so numerous that its further increase will have to be checked. If it should become necessary for communist society to regulate the production of men, just as it will have already regulated the production of things, then it, and it alone, will be able to do this without difficulties.

Frederick Engels

ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS, THE POPULATION OF THE EARTH WILL REACH:



INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIAL SYSTEM ON DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES

Every special mode of production has its own special laws of population, historically valid within its limits alone.

Karl Marx

CAPITALISM

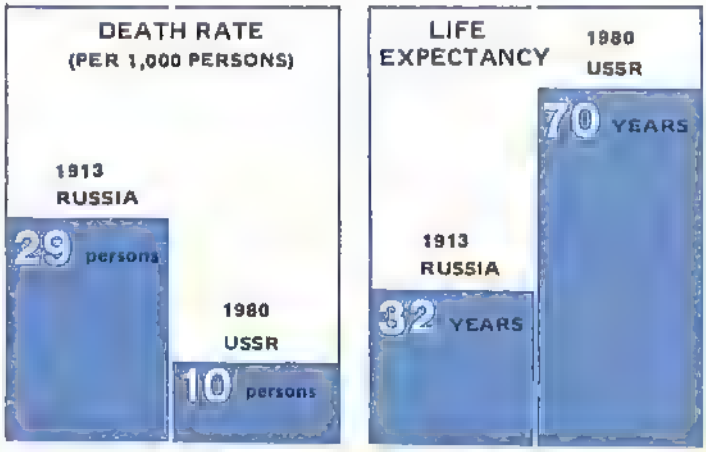
Capitalist production can by no means content itself with the quantity of disposable labour-power which the natural increase of population yields. It requires for its free play an industrial reserve army independent of these natural limits.

Karl Marx

During economic crises, unemployment increases, the working people's health deteriorates, the birth rate declines.

SOCIALISM

In the socialist society, where the individual and his needs are the focus of attention, a totally new law of population begins to operate. There is no unemployment in this society. The people's rising material standards lead to a higher life expectancy and a lower death rate.



GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF OUR DAY

GLOBAL PROBLEMS ARE ALL THOSE VITAL PROBLEMS FACING MANKIND WHOSE SOLUTION IS CRUCIAL TO FURTHER SOCIAL PROGRESS IN OUR EPOCH:

- PREVENTION OF GLOBAL THERMONUCLEAR WAR
- PROTECTION OF NATURE, STRUGGLE AGAINST POLLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO PREVENT AN ECOLOGICAL CRISIS
- RATIONAL USE OF NATURE, CONTINUED SUPPLY OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS FOR MANKIND'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- FOOD SUPPLY FOR THE GROWING POPULATION OF THE EARTH
- RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD OCEAN AND OUTER SPACE
- FIGHT AGAINST EPIDEMIC DISEASES, etc.

GLOBAL PROBLEMS ARE CLOSELY TIED IN WITH EACH OTHER AND CAN BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH A JOINT EFFORT BY ALL PEOPLES

Chapter

Marx discovered the law of development of human history: the simple fact, hitherto concealed by an overgrowth of ideology, that mankind must first of all eat, drink, have shelter and clothing, before it can pursue politics, sciences, art, religion, etc., that therefore the production of the immediate material means of subsistence and consequently the degree of economic development attained by a given people or during a given epoch form the foundation upon which the state institutions, the legal conceptions, art, and even the ideas on religion, of the people concerned have been evolved, and in the light of which they must, therefore, be explained, instead of vice versa, as had hitherto been the case.

Frederick Engels

MATERIAL PRODUCTION AS THE BASIS OF THE SOCIETY'S EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

LABOUR PROCESS

ELEMENTS OF THE LABOUR PROCESS

PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY

LABOUR IS ... A PROCESS IN WHICH BOTH MAN AND NATURE PARTICIPATE AND IN WHICH MAN OF HIS OWN ACCORD STARTS, REGULATES, AND CONTROLS THE MATERIAL RE-ACTIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND NATURE.

Karl Marx

OBJECT OF LABOUR

AN OBJECT OF LABOUR IS ANYTHING AT WHICH HUMAN LABOUR IS DIRECTED: THE LAND AND THE MINERAL AND OTHER RESOURCES, PLANTS AND ANIMALS, DIVERSE MATERIALS, etc.

INSTRUMENTS OF LABOUR

AN INSTRUMENT OF LABOUR IS A THING, OR A COMPLEX OF THINGS, WHICH THE LABOURER INTERPOSES BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE SUBJECT OF HIS LABOUR, AND WHICH SERVES AS THE CONDUCTOR OF HIS ACTIVITY.

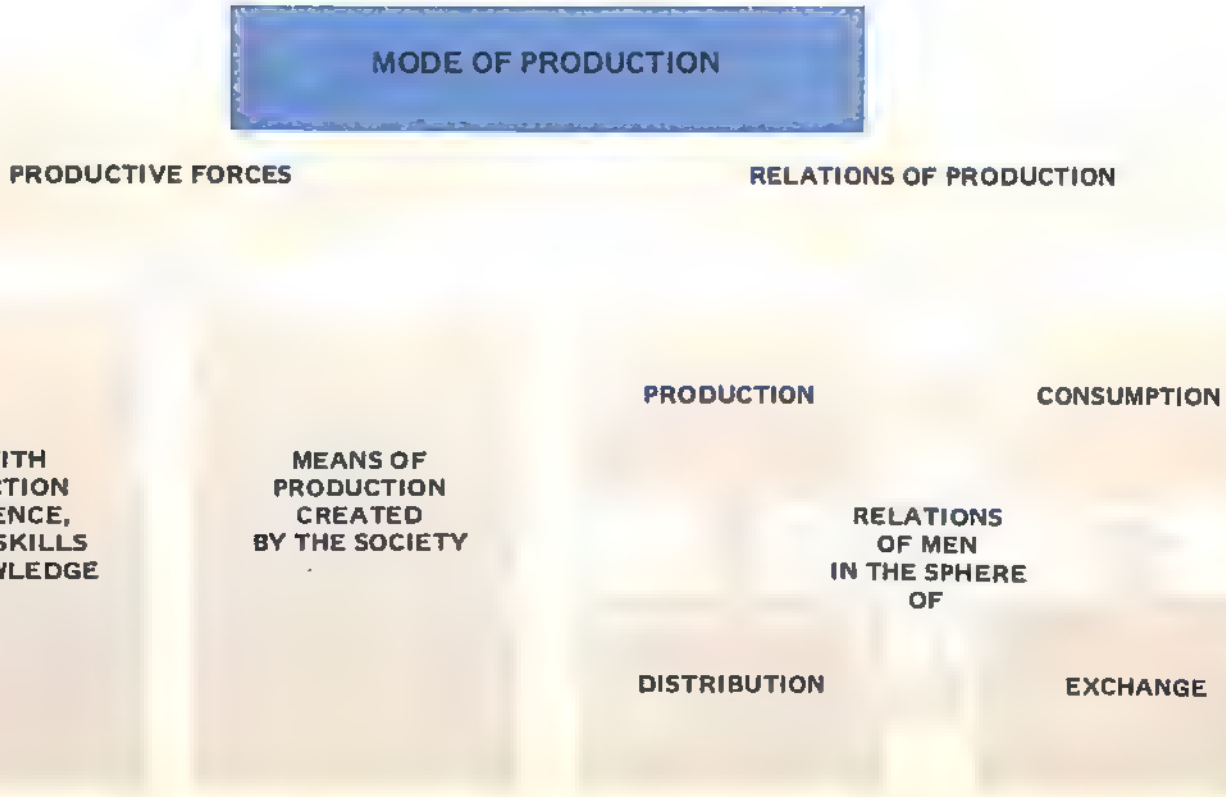
Karl Marx

MEANS OF PRODUCTION

STRUCTURE OF MATERIAL PRODUCTION

In production, men enter into relation not only with nature. They produce only by co-operating in a certain way and mutually exchanging their activities.

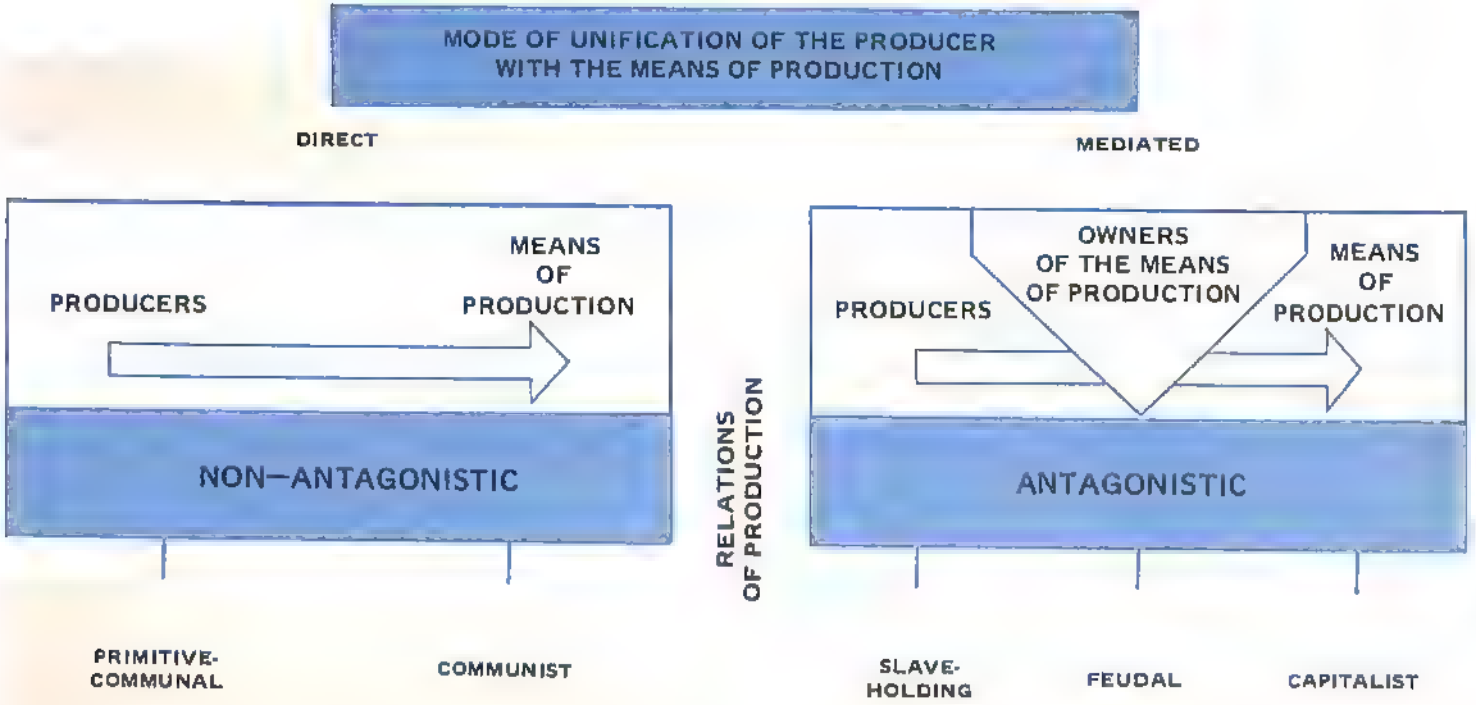
Karl Marx



TYPES AND FORMS OF PRODUCTION RELATIONS

Whatever the social form of production, labourers and means of production always remain factors of it... For production to go on at all they must unite. The specific manner in which this union is accomplished distinguishes the different economic epochs of the structure of society from one another.

Karl Marx



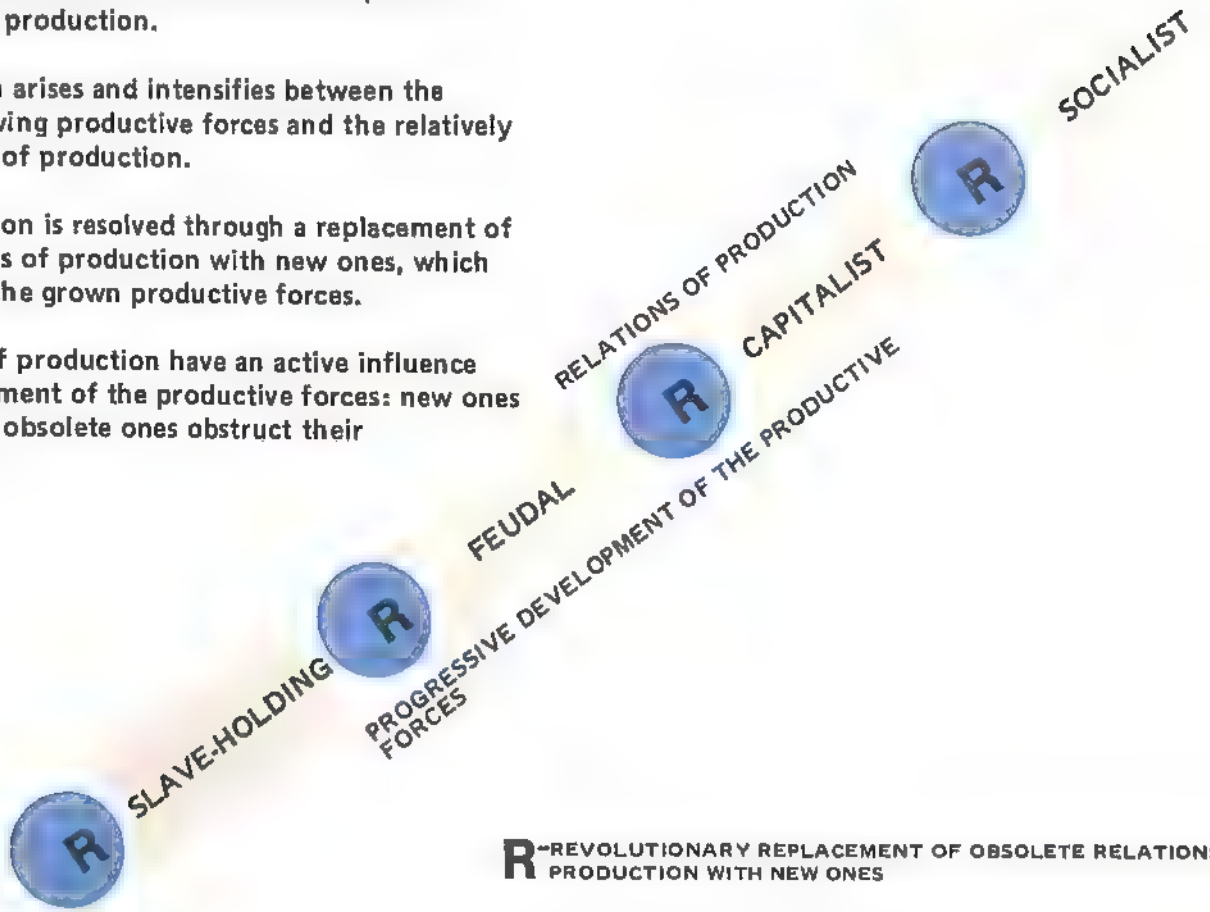
DIALECTICS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES AND THE RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION

The productive forces determine the development of the relations of production.

A contradiction arises and intensifies between the constantly growing productive forces and the relatively stable relations of production.

The contradiction is resolved through a replacement of the old relations of production with new ones, which correspond to the grown productive forces.

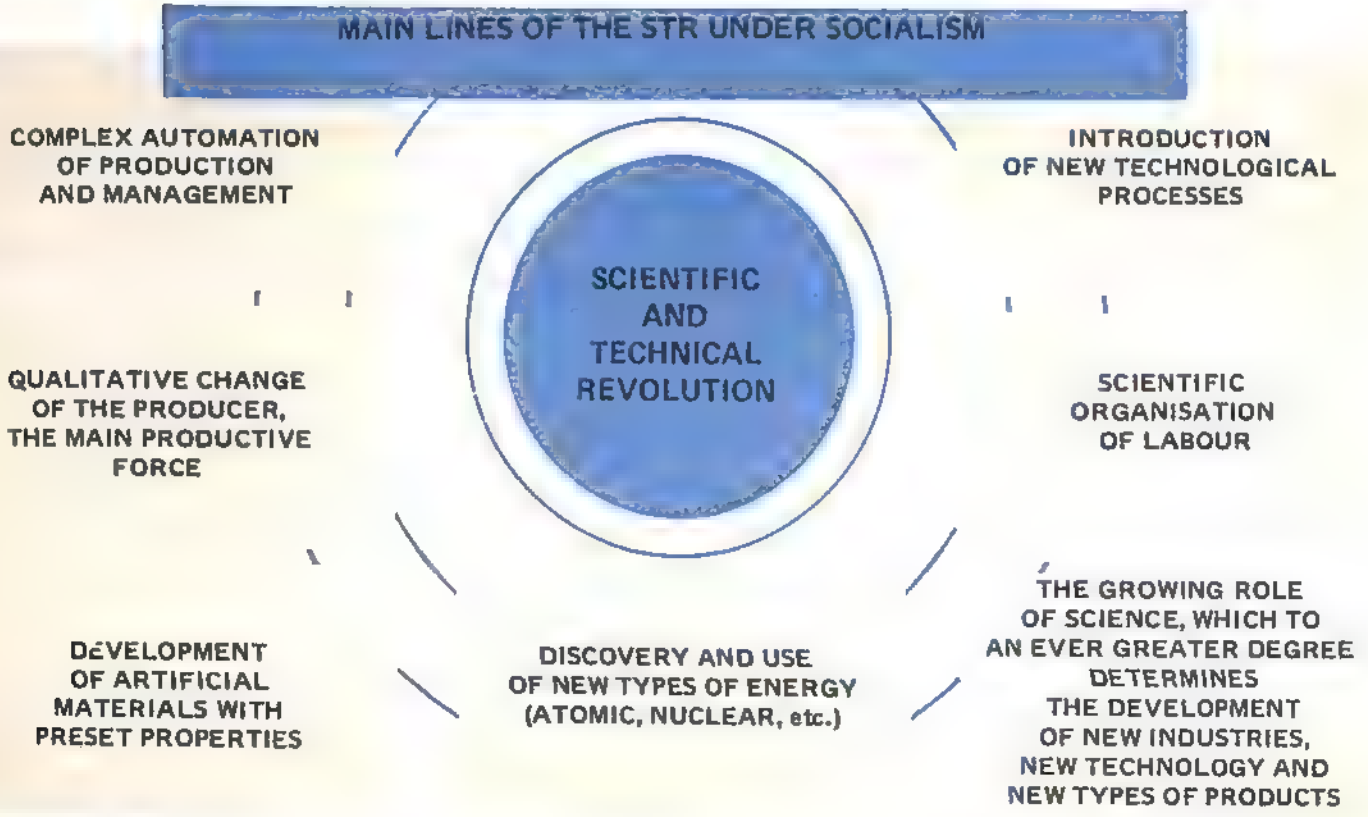
The relations of production have an active influence on the development of the productive forces: new ones accelerate, and obsolete ones obstruct their development.



R—REVOLUTIONARY REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION WITH NEW ONES

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVOLUTION

The ongoing scientific and technical revolution is a major leap forward in mankind's cognition of nature and use of its laws in production. It means a fundamental reconstruction of the whole system of productive forces under the impact of the latest scientific achievements.



Chapter

10

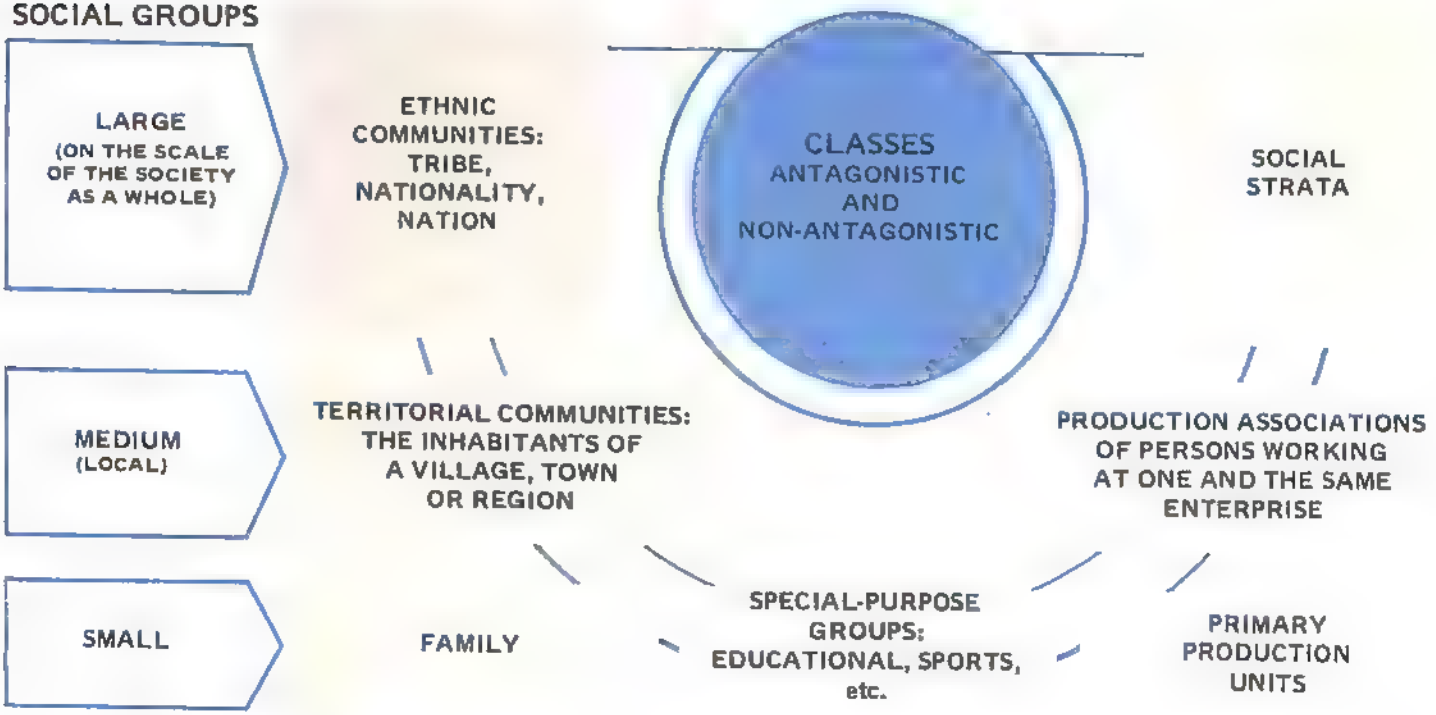
SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE SOCIETY

It was precisely Marx who had first discovered the great law of motion of history, the law according to which all historical struggles, whether they proceed in the political, religious, philosophical or some other ideological domain, are in fact only the more or less clear expression of struggles of social classes, and that the existence and thereby the collisions, too, between these classes are in turn conditioned by the degree of development of their economic position, by the mode of their production and of their exchange determined by it.

Frederick Engels

ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY'S SOCIAL STRUCTURE

The totality of classes, social strata and groups and the system of their interrelations constitute the society's social structure



The social structure of a class society is based on classes, which exert a decisive influence on the behaviour of the other social groups.
With a change of the mode of production, the society's social structure changes as well.

FORMULATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC THEORY OF CLASSES AND CLASS STRUGGLE

MY OWN CONTRIBUTION WAS TO SHOW:
1. THAT THE EXISTENCE OF CLASSES IS MERELY BOUND UP WITH CERTAIN HISTORICAL PHASES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION;
2. THAT THE CLASS STRUGGLE NECESSARILY LEADS TO THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT;
3. THAT THIS DICTATORSHIP ITSELF CONSTITUTES NO MORE THAN A TRANSITION TO THE ABOLITION OF ALL CLASSES AND TO A CLASSLESS SOCIETY.

Karl Marx

Manifest
der
Kommuniſtiſchen Partei.

The question of property ... has always been the vital question for a particular class. In the 17th and 18th centuries, when the point at issue was the abolition of feudal property relations, the question of property was the vital question for the bourgeois class. In the 19th century, when it is a matter of abolishing bourgeois property relations, the question of property is a vital question for the working class.

Karl Marx

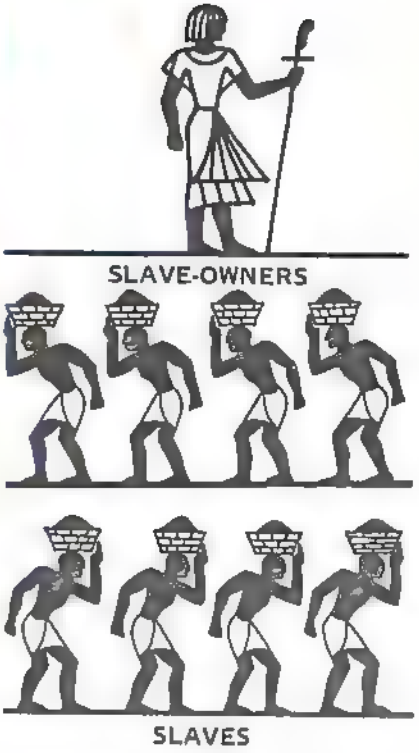
EMERGENCE OF CLASSES

PREREQUISITES FOR THE EMERGENCE OF CLASSES

EMERGENCE
OF PRIVATE PROPERTY
IN THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

EXISTENCE OF GROUPS OF PEOPLE
WITHOUT ANY MEANS OF PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION OF A SURPLUS PRODUCT



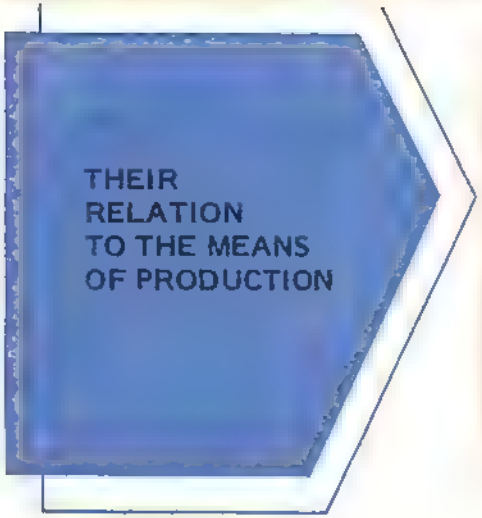
Under the given general historical conditions, the first great social division of labour, by increasing the productivity of labour, that is, wealth, and enlarging the field of production, necessarily carried slavery in its wake. Out of the first great social division of labour arose the first great division of society, into two classes: masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited.

Frederick Engels

LENIN'S DEFINITION OF CLASSES

CLASSES ARE BIG GROUPS OF PEOPLE DIFFERING FROM ONE ANOTHER IN:

THEIR PLACE IN A HISTORICALLY DEFINITE SYSTEM OF SOCIAL PRODUCTION



THEIR ROLE IN THE SOCIAL ORGANISATION OF LABOUR

THE SHARE OF THE SOCIAL WEALTH THEY RECEIVE AND THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY ACQUIRE IT

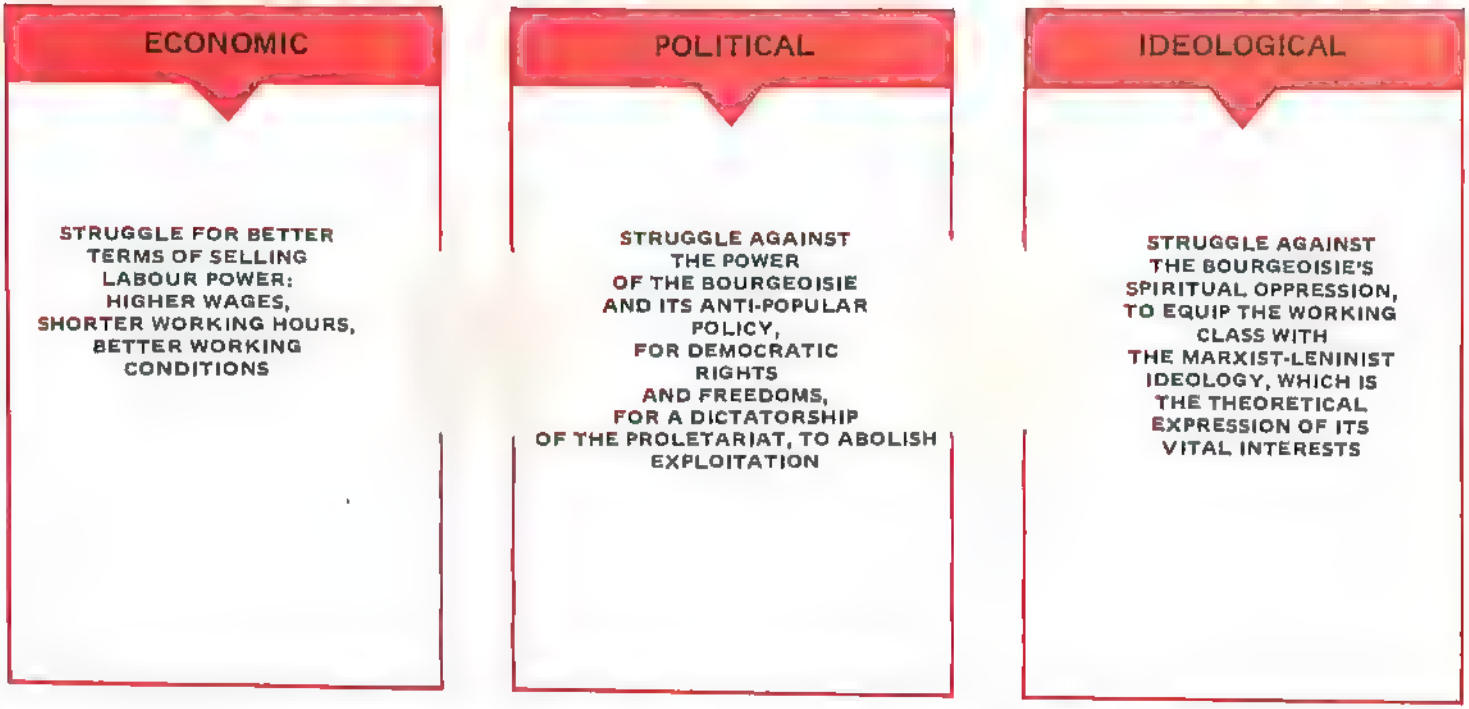
Classes are groups of people one of which can appropriate the labour of another owing to the different places they occupy in a definite system of social economy.

V. I. Lenin

SOCIO-CLASS STRUCTURE OF ANTAGONISTIC SOCIETIES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATION	MAIN CLASSES (CONDITIONED BY THE PREVAILING MODE OF PRODUCTION)	OTHER CLASSES (CONNECTED WITH INCOMING OR OUTGOING MODES OF PRODUCTION)	SOCIAL GROUPS (NOT LINKED DIRECTLY WITH THE MODE OF PRODUCTION)	DECLASSED ELEMENTS
SLAVE-HOLDING	SLAVE-OWNERS SLAVES	TRADERS, HANDICRAFTSMEN	CLERGY	
FEUDAL	FEUDAL LORDS SERFS	BOURGEOISIE, HANDICRAFTSMEN, MANUFACTORY WORKERS		LUMPEN-PROLETARIAT, BEGGARS
CAPITALIST	BOURGEOISIE PROLETARIAT	LANDOWNERS, PEASANTS		
			INTELLIGENTSIA	

MAIN FORMS OF THE PROLETARIAT'S CLASS STRUGGLE



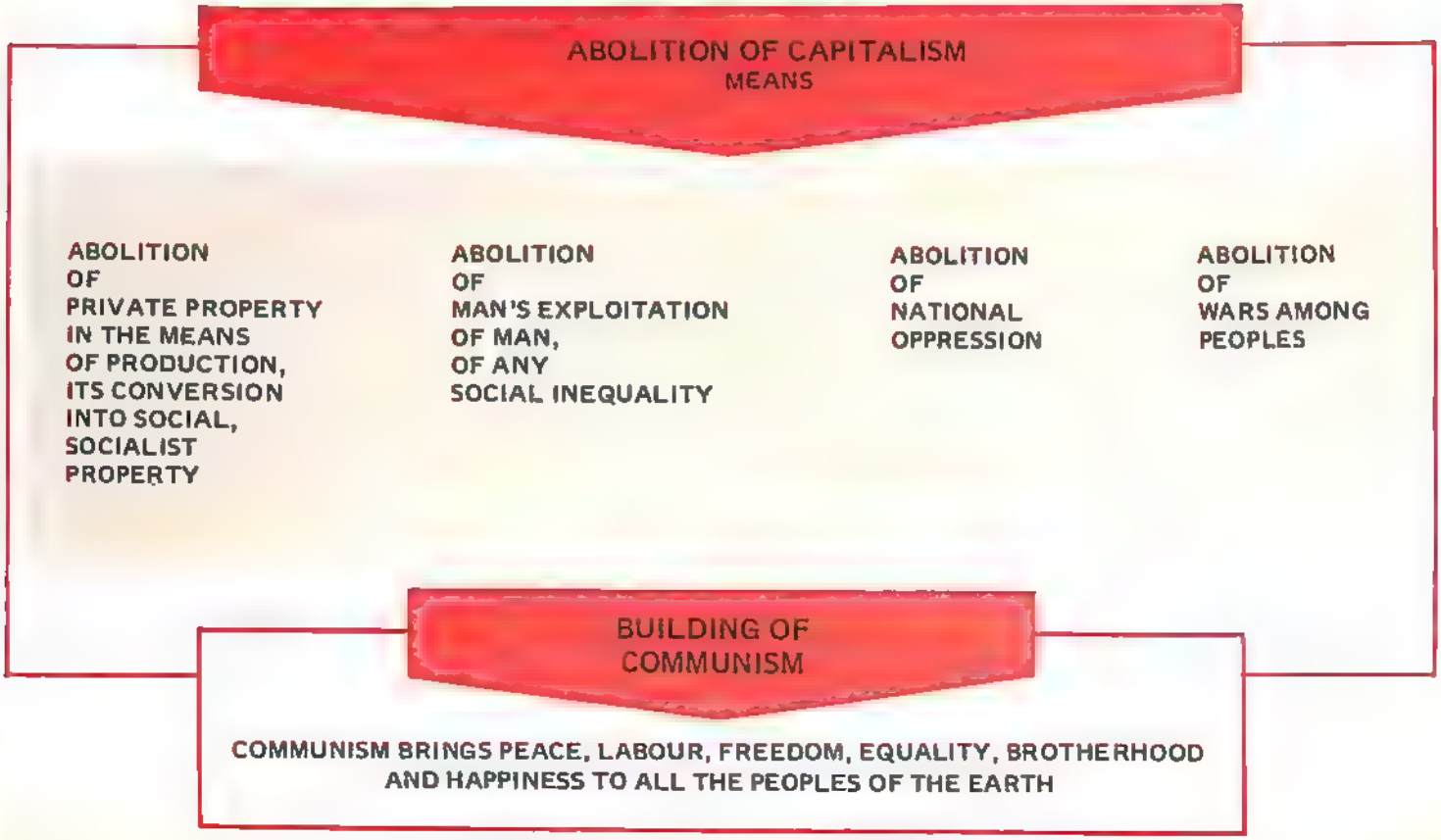
The most essential, the "decisive" interests of classes can be satisfied only by radical political changes... The fundamental economic interests of the proletariat can be satisfied only by a political revolution that will replace the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie by the dictatorship of the proletariat.

V. I. Lenin

THE PROLETARIAT'S MISSION IN WORLD HISTORY

The theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

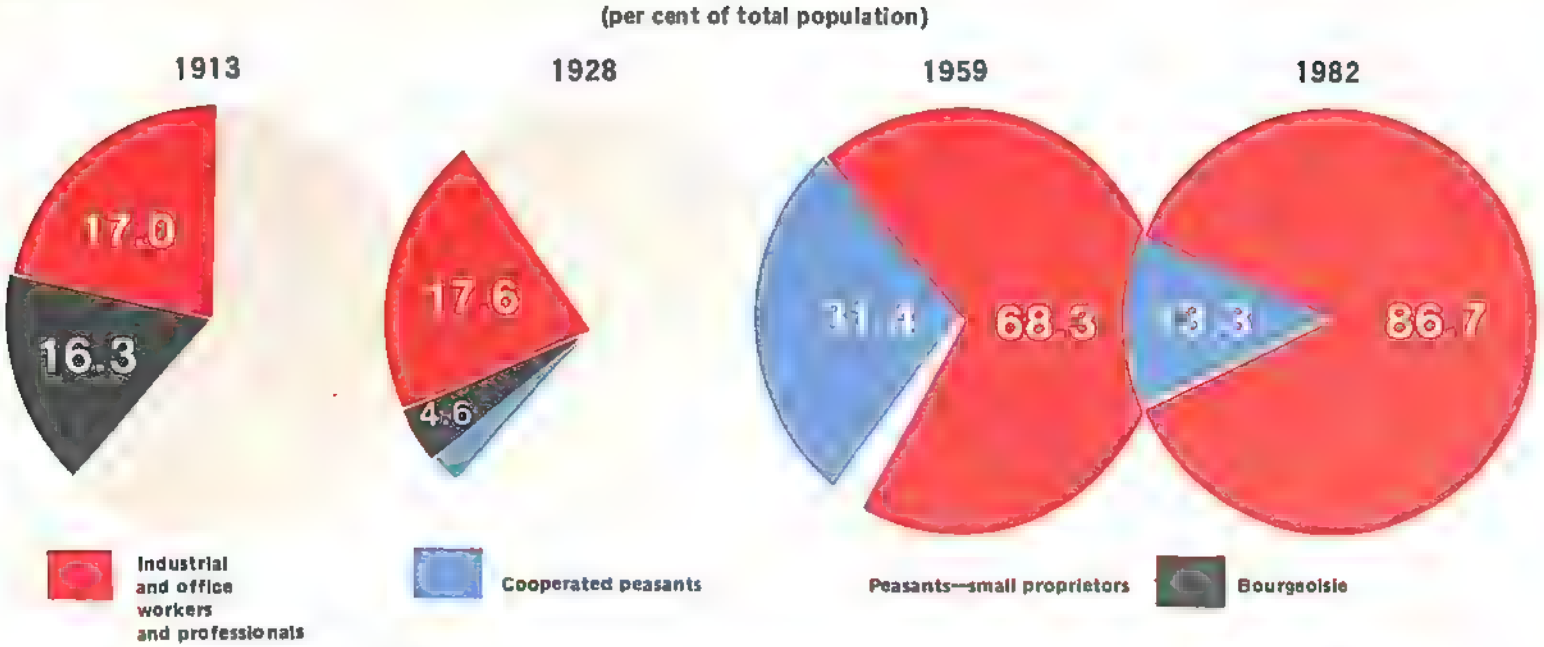


FORMS OF CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION FROM CAPITALISM TO SOCIALISM

Socialist transformations in the transitional period are carried out in conditions of a bitter class struggle, being waged by the working class and all the other working people against the overthrown exploiters in the economic, political and ideological spheres. The forms of that struggle are diverse.

- SUPPRESSION OF THE EXPLOITERS' RESISTANCE. THE MODES OF THAT SUPPRESSION DEPEND ON THE INTENSITY OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE, ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE BOURGEOISIE AND ITS TACTICS
- STRUGGLE TO WIN OVER THE VACILLATING PETTY-BOURGEOIS STRATA TO THE SIDE OF SOCIALISM
- "USE" OF BOURGEOIS SPECIALISTS IN THE PROLETARIAT'S INTERESTS
- EFFORTS TO FOSTER A NEW DISCIPLINE, TO ROOT OUT THE SURVIVALS OF THE PAST IN HUMAN MINDS AND BEHAVIOUR. STRUGGLE FOR A CONSCIOUS, CREATIVE ATTITUDE TO WORK AND SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION

CHANGES IN THE CLASS STRUCTURE OF SOVIET SOCIETY



The working class is no longer the exploited class it was before the revolution, but has turned into a free and conscious architect of history, the nature of its work has changed and continues to change, becoming ever more creative and developing into the individual's paramount need.

In the years of the Soviet power, the peasants, most of whom belonged to the poor peasant strata in tsarist Russia, have become full and equal masters of their country, working at large collective and state farms and using modern agricultural machinery and farming techniques in their work. The very nature of work and life in agriculture has changed, as town and country have been drawing closer together.

A new, socialist intelligentsia has taken shape and continues developing, recruiting its members from the ranks of the working class, the peasantry and office personnel.

LENIN ON THE ABOLITION OF CLASSES

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO OVERTHROW THE EXPLOITERS, THE LANDOWNERS AND CAPITALISTS, NOT ENOUGH TO ABOLISH THEIR RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP,

IT IS NECESSARY ALSO TO ABOLISH ALL PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION,

IT IS NECESSARY TO ABOLISH THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY, AS WELL AS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MANUAL WORKERS AND BRAIN WORKERS.

THIS REQUIRES A VERY LONG PERIOD OF TIME. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS AN ENORMOUS STEP FORWARD MUST BE TAKEN IN DEVELOPING THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES.

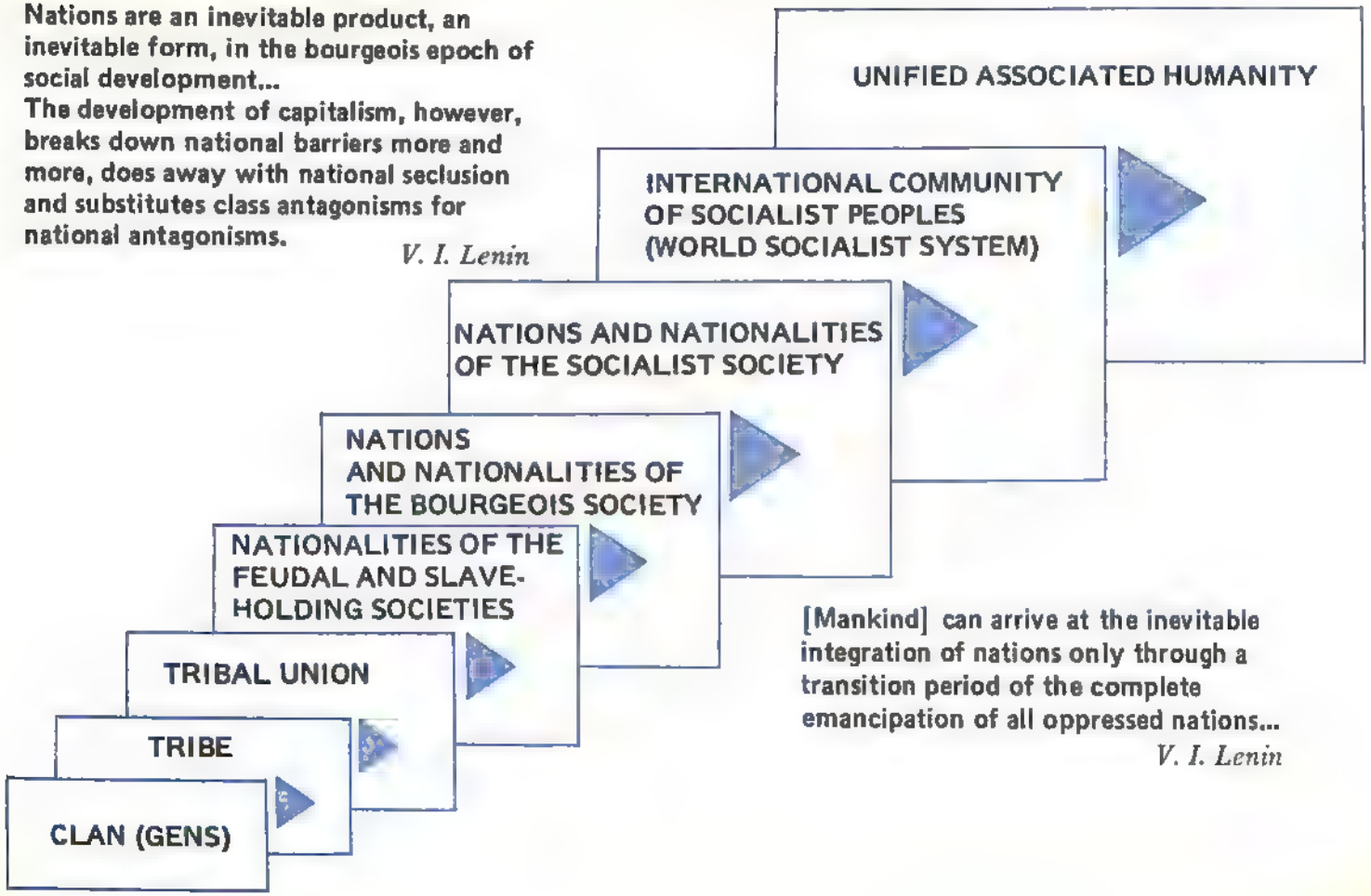
V. I. Lenin

In the USSR, all the classes and social groups of the Soviet society have been drawing closer together, which leads to the formation of an essentially classless society within the framework of mature socialism.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONS

Nations are an inevitable product, an inevitable form, in the bourgeois epoch of social development...
The development of capitalism, however, breaks down national barriers more and more, does away with national seclusion and substitutes class antagonisms for national antagonisms.

V. I. Lenin

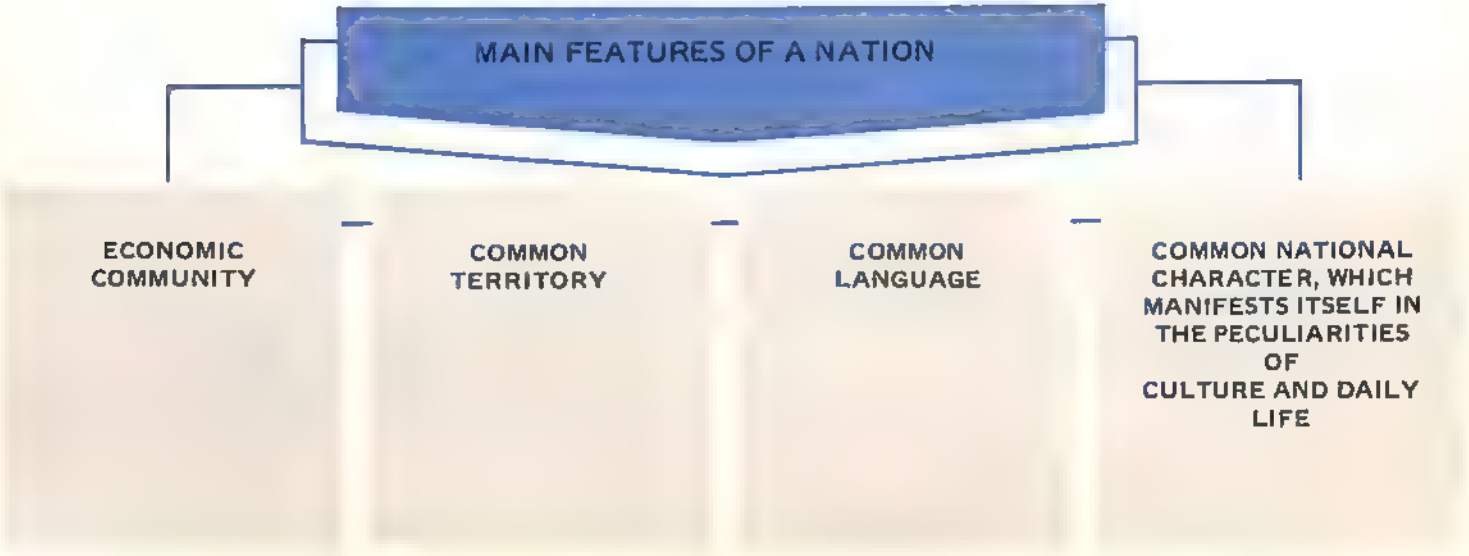


[Mankind] can arrive at the inevitable integration of nations only through a transition period of the complete emancipation of all oppressed nations...

V. I. Lenin

EMERGENCE OF NATIONS

Nations arise in the epoch of the formation of capitalism from tribes, races and nationalities. Capitalism eliminates the feudal economic, political and cultural apartness of the population speaking one and the same language by promoting the growth of industry and trade. That leads to the economic and political consolidation of nationalities into nations, to the formation of centralised national states, which, for their part, accelerate that consolidation. The economic and political consolidation of a nation helps to form a common national language. The specifics of a nation's historical development, its economic system, culture, everyday life, customs and traditions, and geography are important factors in shaping the national character.



TWO HISTORICAL TENDENCIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT UNDER CAPITALISM

THE FIRST IS THE AWAKENING OF NATIONAL LIFE AND NATIONAL MOVEMENTS, THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL NATIONAL OPPRESSION AND THE CREATION OF NATIONAL STATES

THE SECOND IS THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWING FREQUENCY OF INTERNATIONAL INTERCOURSE IN EVERY FORM, THE BREAK-DOWN OF NATIONAL BARRIERS, THE CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNITY OF CAPITAL, OF ECONOMIC LIFE IN GENERAL, OF POLITICS, SCIENCE, AND SO ON

BOTH TENDENCIES ARE A UNIVERSAL LAW OF CAPITALISM

THE FORMER PREDOMINATES IN THE BEGINNING OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, THE LATTER CHARACTERISES A MATURE CAPITALISM THAT IS MOVING TOWARDS ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO SOCIALIST SOCIETY

THE MARXISTS' NATIONAL PROGRAMME TAKES BOTH TENDENCIES INTO ACCOUNT

AND ADVOCATES, FIRSTLY, THE EQUALITY OF NATIONS AND LANGUAGES AND THE IMPERMISSIBILITY OF ALL PRIVILEGES IN THIS RESPECT (AND ALSO THE RIGHT OF NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION...);

SECONDLY, THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONALISM AND UNCOMPROMISING STRUGGLE AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF THE PROLETARIAT WITH BOURGEOIS NATIONALISM, EVEN OF THE MOST REFINED KIND.

V. I. Lenin

It is impossible to abolish national (or any other political) oppression under capitalism, since this requires the abolition of classes, i.e., the introduction of socialism.

V. I. Lenin

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS HAS PROVED

- Only a victorious socialist revolution creates all the opportunities and conditions for eliminating all national oppression.
- The Communist Party, with its scientifically substantiated policy, is the leading, guiding force in the socialist solution of the national question.
- The backward national outskirts, in which feudal-patriarchal or even tribal relations often prevailed, have disappeared.
- The dynamic economic growth of all the Soviet republics under a state plan has led to the formation of an integral Union-wide economic complex.
- There has been a qualitative change in the social structure of the Soviet republics; in each of these, a modern working class has taken shape, the peasantry has been following the new road of collective farming, an intelligentsia of their own has arisen, and highly skilled cadres have been trained in every area of state and social life.
- On the basis of progressive traditions and an intensive exchange of spiritual values, a thriving socialist multinational culture has taken shape.
- Socialist nations have been formed, making up a new historical community: the Soviet people.

THE SOVIET PEOPLE AS A NEW HISTORICAL COMMUNITY

On the basis of the drawing together of all classes and social strata and of the juridical and factual equality of all its nations and nationalities and their fraternal co-operation, a new historical community of people has been formed—the Soviet people.

Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

A COMMON HOMELAND, A COMMON TERRITORY

AN INTEGRAL ECONOMY BASED ON SOCIAL PROPERTY IN THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

A CULTURE THAT IS INTEGRAL IN SOCIALIST CONTENT AND DIVERSE IN NATIONAL SPECIFICS

NATIONAL LANGUAGES AND A LANGUAGE USED BY ALL THE SOVIET NATIONS AND NATIONALITIES

A FEDERAL STATE OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE AND A COMMON GOAL: BUILDING OF COMMUNISM

The Soviet people are a complex international system comprising nations and nationalities, which enjoy optimal conditions for their development only within that unity.

Chapter

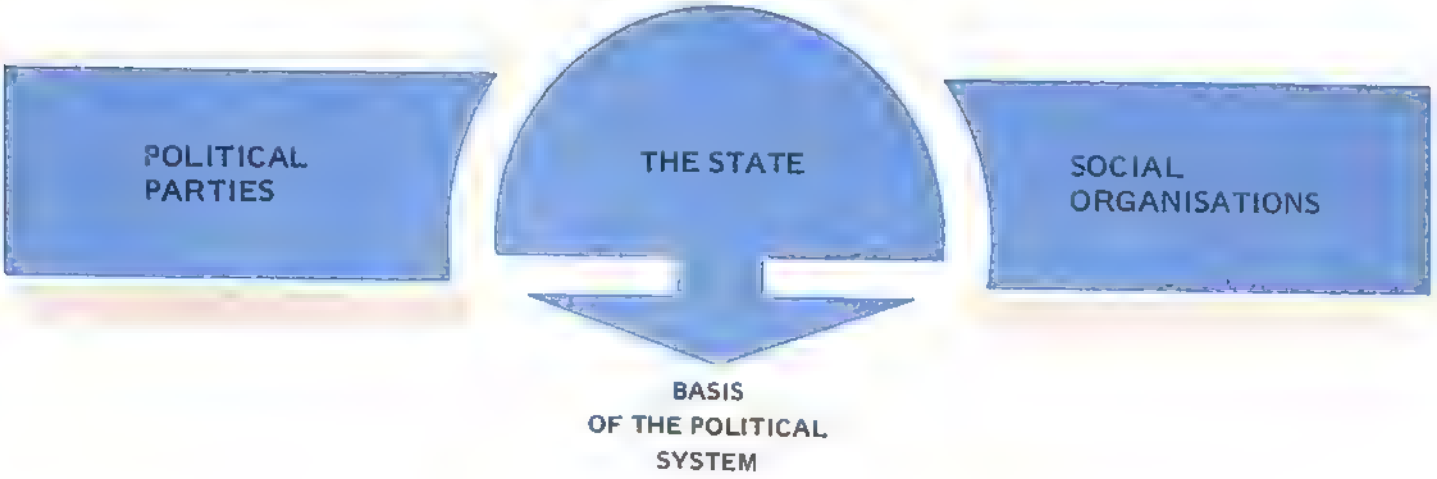
POLITICAL ORGANISATION OF THE SOCIETY

In the question of the state, in the doctrine of the state, in the theory of the state ... you will always discern the struggle between different classes, a struggle which is reflected or expressed in a conflict of views on the state, in the estimate of the role and significance of the state.

V. I. Lenin

STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY'S POLITICAL ORGANISATION

System of state and non-state institutions and organisations regulating the political relations among classes, nations and states, and engaged in political activity



The society's political organisation is formed with the emergence of private property in the means of production and the society's division into classes. In the course of historical development, it is complexified and perfected. In the building of socialism and communism, the political organisation goes through several stages of development and is gradually converted into communist social self-government.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

OF THE CAPITALIST SOCIETY

The political system of the capitalist society reflects its antagonistic-class nature.

OF THE SOCIALIST SOCIETY

The political system of the socialist society defends the revolutionary gains of the working people and ensures the building of socialism and communism.

The principal direction in the development of the political system of Soviet society is the extension of socialist democracy, namely ever broader participation of citizens in managing the affairs of society and the state, continuous improvement of the machinery of state, heightening of the activity of public organisations, strengthening of the system of people's control, consolidation of the legal foundations of the functioning of the state and of public life, greater openness and publicity, and constant responsiveness to public opinion.

Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Art. 9

DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE GENTILE (CLAN) SOCIETY

As distinct from the old gentile order, the state, first, divides its subjects according to territory... Citizens were allowed to exercise their public rights and duties wherever they settled, irrespective of gens and tribe...

The second distinguishing feature is the establishment of a public power, which no longer directly coincides with the population organising itself as an armed force. This special public power is necessary because a self-acting armed organisation of the population has become impossible since the split into classes... This public power exists in every state; it consists not merely of armed men but also of material adjuncts, prisons and institutions of coercion of all kinds, of which gentile [clan] society knew nothing...

In order to maintain this public power, contributions from the citizens become necessary—taxes. These were absolutely unknown in gentile society (but we know enough about them today). As civilisation advances, these taxes become inadequate; the state makes drafts on the future, contracts, loans, public debts...

Having public power and the right to levy taxes, the officials now stand, as organs of society, above society...

Because the state arose from the need to hold class antagonisms in check, but because it arose, at the same time, in the midst of the conflict of these classes, it is, as a rule, the state of the most powerful, economically dominant class, which, through the medium of the state, becomes also the politically dominant class, and thus acquires new means of holding down and exploiting the oppressed class.

Frederick Engels

	GENTILE SOCIETY	THE STATE
ON WHAT PRINCIPLE IS THE POPULATION ORGANISED?	BLOOD RELATIONSHIP	TERRITORIAL
WHO RUNS THE SOCIETY?	COUNCIL OF ELDERS, MEETING OF THE CLAN OR TRIBE	A PUBLIC POWER, WHICH IS IN THE HANDS OF THE ECONOMICALLY DOMINANT CLASS
WHAT IS THE BASIS OF PUBLIC ORDER?	TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS, PRESTIGE, PUBLIC OPINION	LAWS AND THE MACHINERY OF COERCION (PRISONS, ARMED UNITS, etc.)
HOW IS DEFENCE AGAINST OUTSIDE ATTACKS ORGANISED?	BY ARMING THE WHOLE POPULATION	BY SETTING UP AN ARMY

TO MAINTAIN THIS APPARATUS, TAXES ARE LEVIED ON THE POPULATION

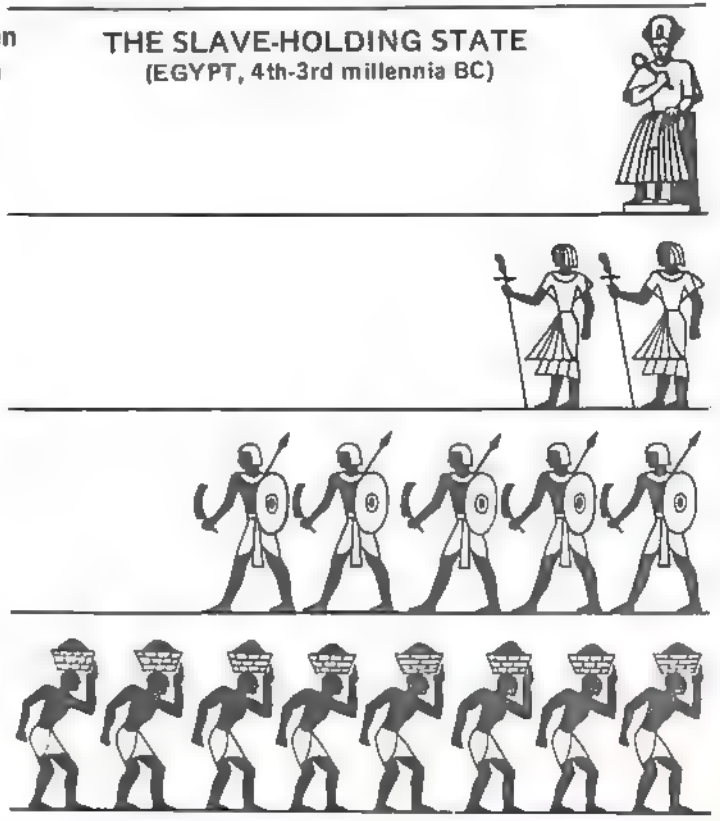
ORIGIN AND ESSENCE OF THE EXPLOITIVE STATE

There was a time when there was no state. It appears wherever and whenever a division of society into classes appears, whenever exploiters and exploited appear... When there were no classes in society, when, before the epoch of slavery, people laboured in primitive conditions of greater equality, in conditions when the productivity of labour was still at its lowest, and when primitive man could barely procure the wherewithal for the crudest and most primitive existence, a special group of people whose function is to rule and to dominate the rest of society, had not and could not yet have emerged. Only when the first form of the division of society into classes appeared, only when slavery appeared, when a certain class of people, by concentrating on the crudest forms of agricultural labour, could produce a certain surplus, when this surplus was not absolutely essential for the most wretched existence of the slave and passed into the hands of the slave-owner, when in this way the existence of this class of slave-owners was secure—then in order that it might take firm root it was necessary for a state to appear...

And it did appear—the slave-owning state, an apparatus which gave the slave-owners power and enabled them to rule over the slaves... It is impossible to compel the greater part of society to work systematically for the other part of society without a permanent apparatus of coercion. So long as there were no classes, there was no apparatus of this sort. When classes appeared, everywhere and always, as the division grew and took firmer hold, there also appeared a special institution—the state.

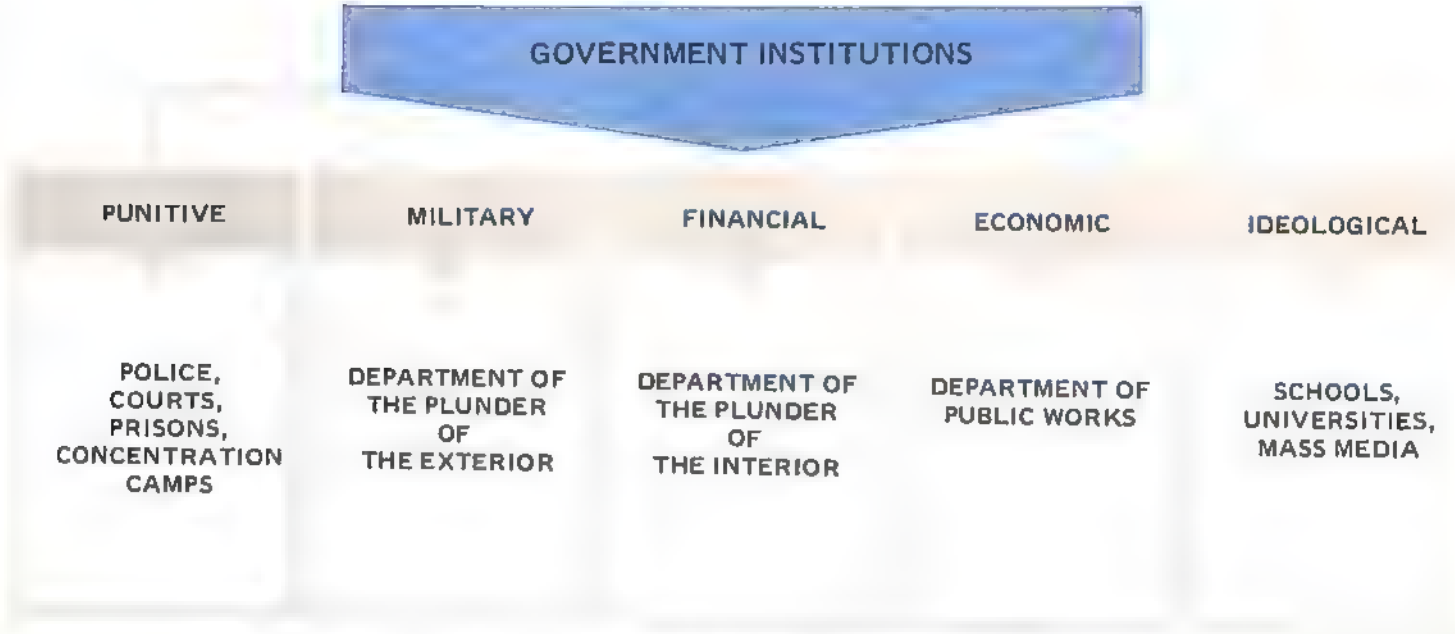
V. I. Lenin

THE SLAVE-HOLDING STATE
(EGYPT, 4th-3rd millennia BC)



THE STATE IS A MACHINE FOR MAINTAINING
THE RULE OF ONE CLASS OVER ANOTHER.

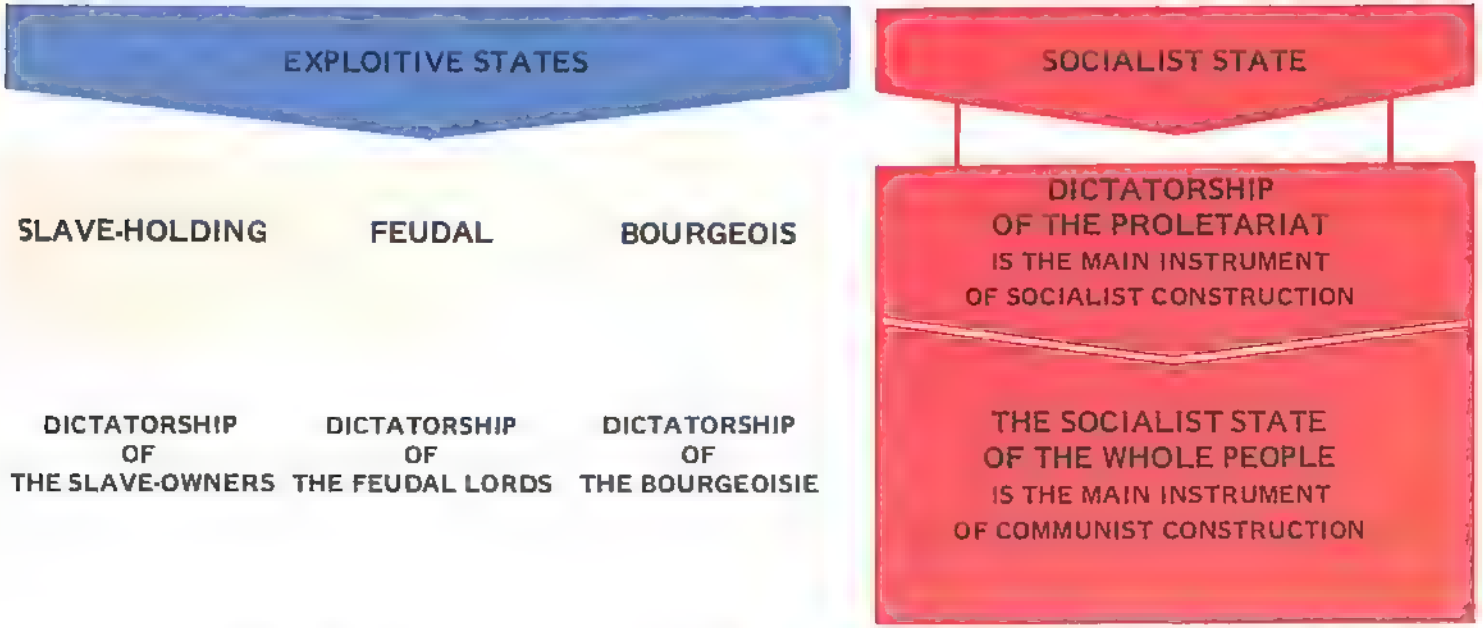
V. I. Lenin



The soul of the state mechanism is the interest of the exploiters. All the organs of the state become ears, eyes, arms, legs, by means of which the interest of the... owner hears, observes, appraises, protects, reaches out, and runs.

Karl Marx

THE TYPE OF THE STATE REFLECTS ITS CLASS ESSENCE



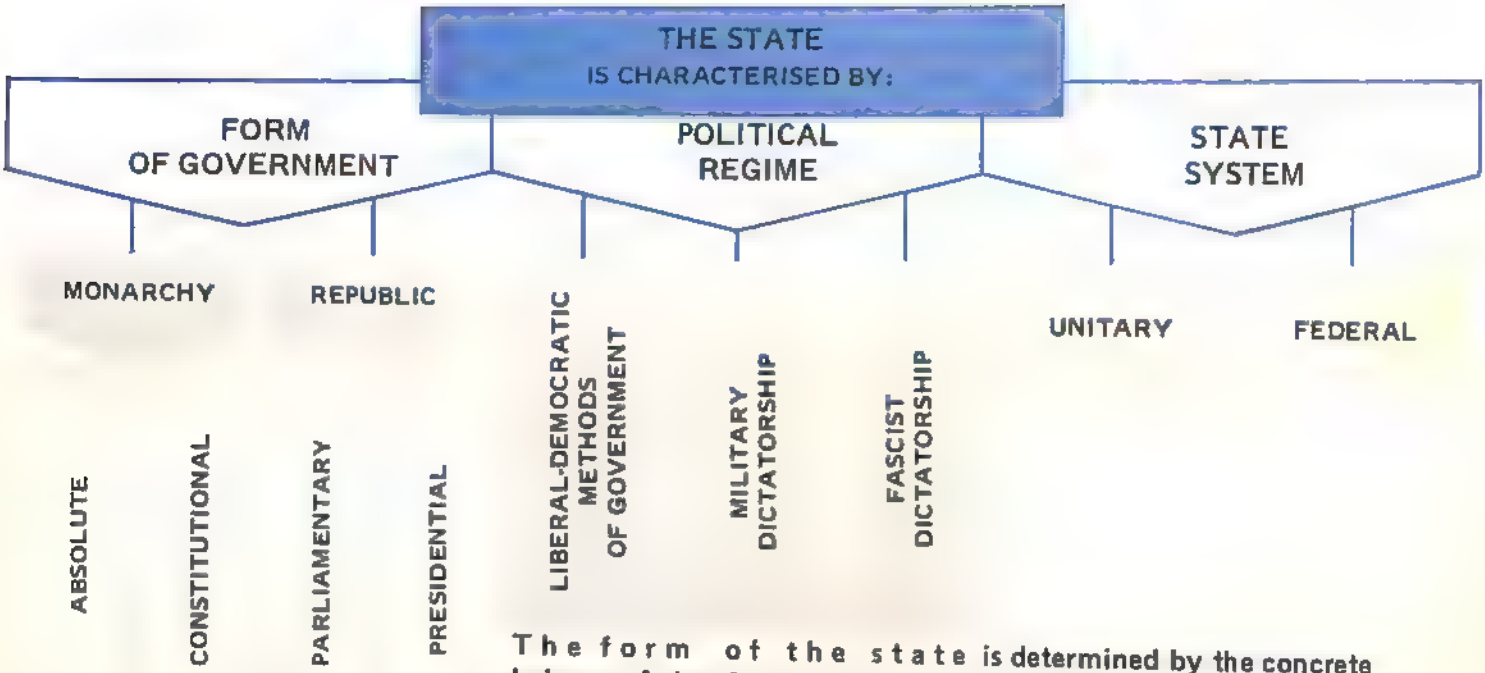
The exploiting classes need political rule to maintain exploitation, i. e., in the selfish interests of an insignificant minority against the vast majority of the people.

The exploited classes need political rule in order to completely abolish all exploitation, i.e., in the interests of the vast majority of the people, and against the insignificant minority consisting of the modern slave-owners—the landowners and capitalists.

V. I. Lenin

At the stages of transition from one formation to another there have existed historically transitional types of state.

FORMS OF STATE IN ANTAGONISTIC SOCIETIES



The form of the state is determined by the concrete balance of class forces in the country, its historical traditions and national peculiarities

Autocracy, constitutional monarchy and republic are merely different forms of class struggle; and the dialectics of history are such that each of these forms passes through different stages of development of its class content, and the transition from one form to another does not (in itself) at all eliminate the rule of the former exploiting classes under the new integument.

V. I. Lenin

INTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CAPITALIST STATE

THE RULING EXPLOITER CLASS ADMINISTERS ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE SOCIETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN CLASS INTERESTS

COERCIVE	IDEOLOGICAL	ECONOMIC
MAIN FUNCTION		
DEFENCE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, SUPPRESSION OF ACTION BY THE WORKING PEOPLE, MAINTENANCE OF AN ORDER WHICH SUITS THE RULING CLASS	EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE IN A SPIRIT OF PATIENCE, SUBMISSIVENESS, AND A BELIEF THAT THE EXISTING ORDER IS "RATIONAL"	SOLUTION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE RULING CLASS

INTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIALIST STATE

THE WORKING CLASS IN ALLIANCE WITH THE PEASANTRY ADMINISTERS ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE FOR THE SOCIETY'S PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND THE BUILDING OF COMMUNISM

ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONAL

MAIN FUNCTION

FORMATION OF THE MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL BASE OF SOCIALISM, AND THEN OF COMMUNISM. RAISING OF THE WORKING PEOPLE'S MATERIAL AND CULTURAL STANDARDS

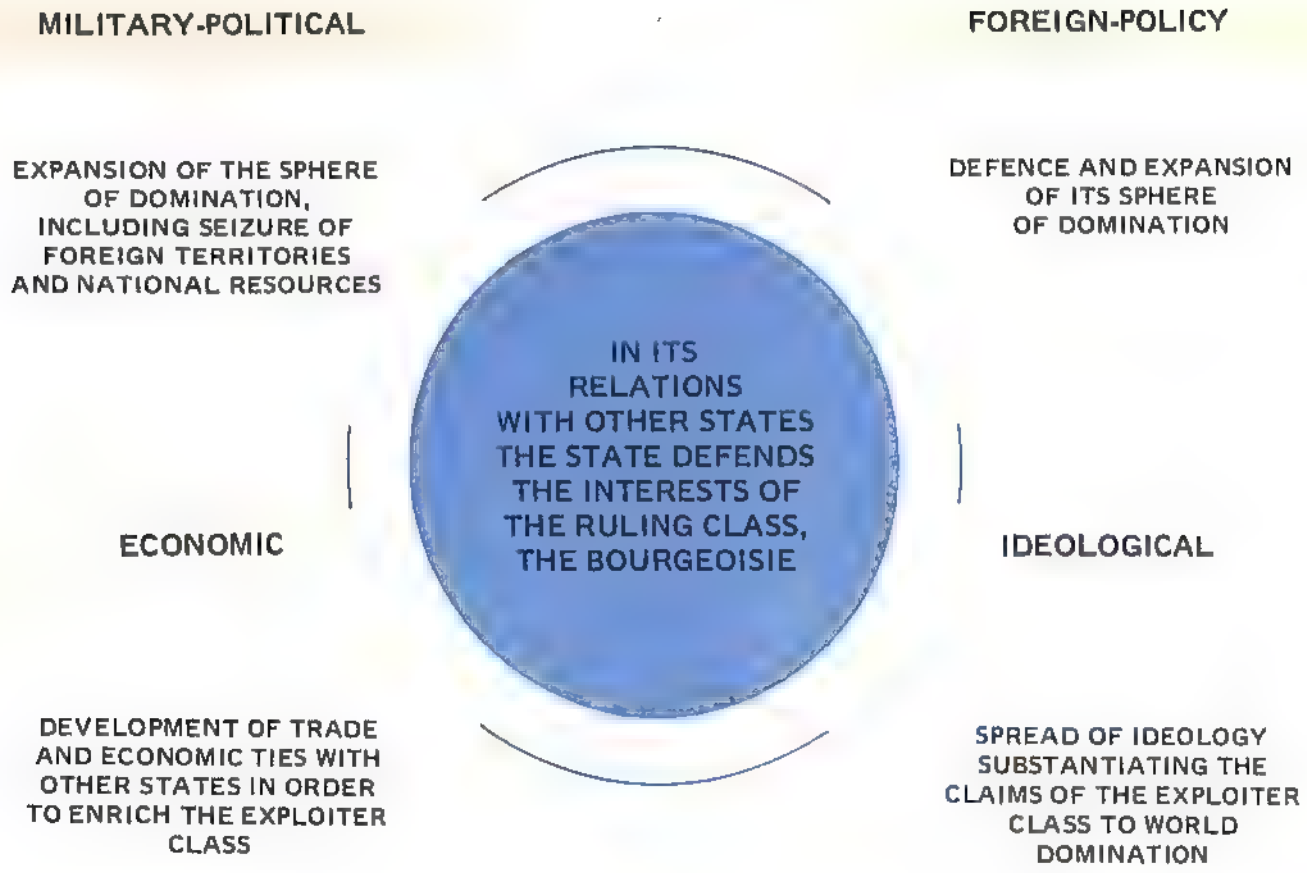
IDEOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL

EDUCATION OF THE NEW INDIVIDUAL, LOYAL TO THE IDEALS OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM. DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE

PROTECTION OF SOCIALIST LAW AND ORDER

PROTECTION OF SOCIALIST PROPERTY, OF THE WORKING PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS. CONTROL OVER THE MEASURE OF WORK AND CONSUMPTION

EXTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF THE CAPITALIST STATE



EXTERNAL FUNCTIONS OF THE SOCIALIST STATE

The socialist state follows a peace policy in the international arena, works for stronger security of the peoples and for broad international cooperation.

CRISIS OF BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY IN THE EPOCH OF IMPERIALISM

Bourgeois democracy, which supplanted the feudal state, was progressive. But with the development of capitalism and its transformation into imperialism, bourgeois democracy has been going through an ever deepening crisis.

THE TENDENCY TO ABANDON DEMOCRACY IS EXPRESSED IN:

THE GROWTH OF THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE ACTUAL LIMITATION OF THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS

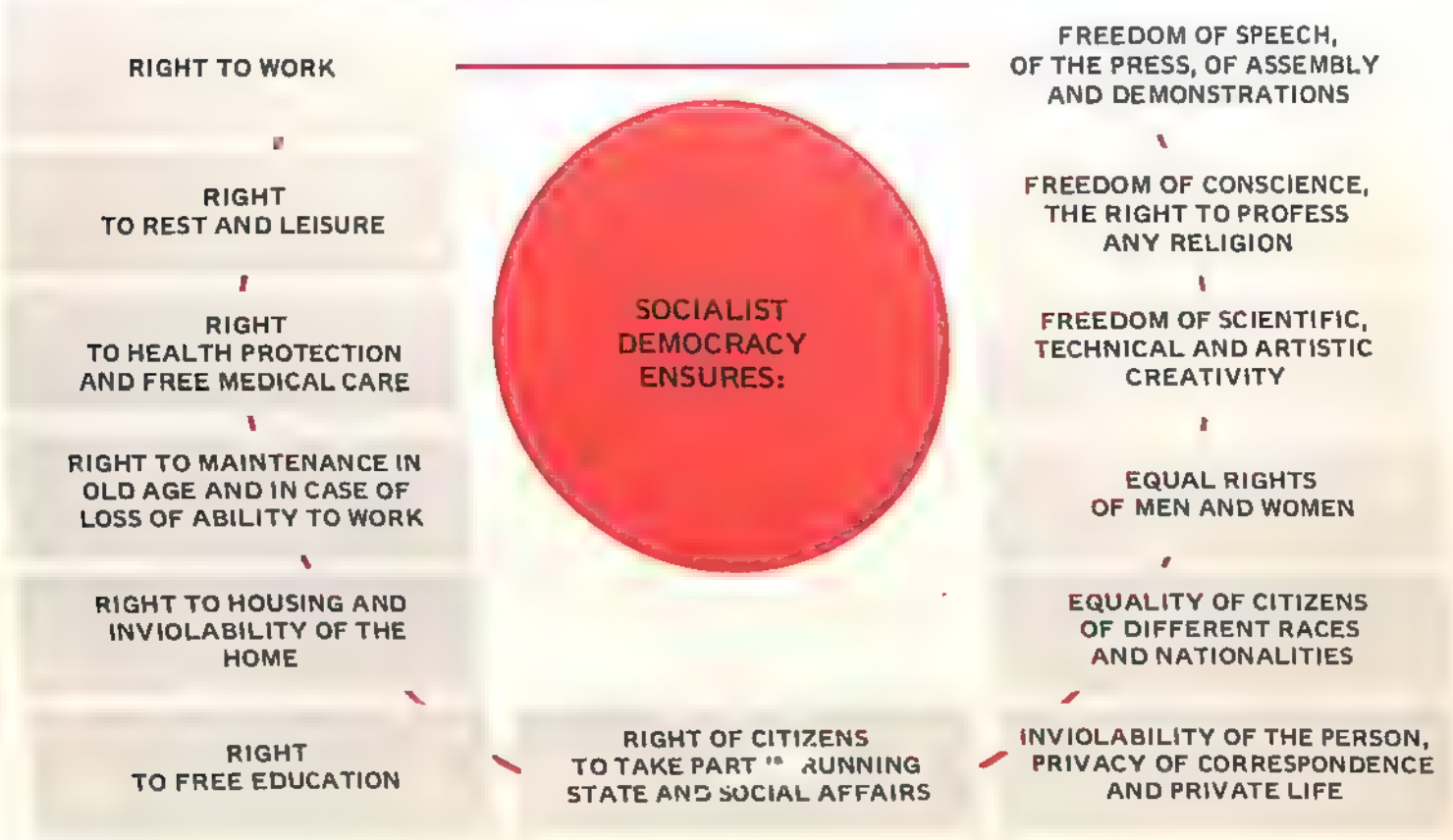
THE CURTAILMENT OF THE WORKING PEOPLE'S POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

THE PERSECUTION OF REVOLUTIONARY AND DEMOCRATIC ORGANISATIONS, RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR ACTIVITY, EXTENSION OF ANTI-LABOUR LEGISLATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF FASCIST GROUPINGS

THE GROWTH OF MILITARISM, OF THE POLICE APPARATUS AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE MILITARY ON STATE POLICY

SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AS THE HIGHEST TYPE OF DEMOCRACY

The whole of life under socialism is based on broad democracy. Through the Soviets, work collectives, trade unions and other mass organisations, the working people take an active part in state administration, in solving economic and cultural problems.



WITHERING AWAY OF THE STATE UNDER COMMUNISM

Only communism makes the state absolutely unnecessary...

V. I. Lenin

For the state to wither away completely, complete communism is necessary.

V. I. Lenin

PREREQUISITES FOR THE WITHERING AWAY OF THE STATE

INTERNAL			EXTERNAL
ECONOMIC	SOCIO-POLITICAL	IDEOLOGICAL	
FORMATION OF THE MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL BASE OF COMMUNISM; IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNIST PRINCIPLE OF DISTRIBUTION: FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS ABILITIES, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS	OVERCOMING OF CLASS DISTINCTIONS; ERASURE OF ESSENTIAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRY, BETWEEN MENTAL AND MANUAL WORK; INVOLVEMENT OF ALL THE WORKING PEOPLE IN RUNNING THE SOCIETY	EDUCATION OF THE NEW INDIVIDUAL; TOTAL ERADICATION OF THE SURVIVALS OF THE PAST IN HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS AND BEHAVIOUR. WORK BECOMES THE INDIVIDUAL'S PARAMOUNT NEED, AND THE RULES OF HUMAN CONTACT TURN INTO A DAILY HABIT	ABSENCE OF ANY THREAT OF EXTERNAL ATTACK

Chapter

12

It is in such periods that the numerous contradictions which slowly accumulate during periods of so-called peaceful development become resolved. It is in such periods that the direct role of the different classes in determining the forms of social life is manifested with the greatest force.

V. I. Lenin

At a certain stage of development, the material productive forces of society come into conflict with the existing relations of production... Then begins an era of social revolution. The changes in the economic foundation lead sooner or later to the transformation of the whole immense superstructure.

Karl Marx

SOCIAL REVOLUTION: A LAW OF TRANSITION FROM ONE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATION TO ANOTHER

TYPES OF SOCIAL REVOLUTION

The type of revolution
depends on its objective goals and motive forces

EVOLUTION

SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, WHICH ABOLISHES CAPITALISM AND USHERS IN THE EPOCH OF THE RISE OF THE COMMUNIST SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATION

EVOLUTION

BOURGEOIS REVOLUTION, WHICH OVERTHREW THE FEUDAL SYSTEM AND ENTRENCHED CAPITALISM

EVOLUTION

REVOLUTION WHICH MARKED THE TRANSITION FROM THE SLAVE-HOLDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATION TO FEUDALISM

REVOLUTION WHICH DESTROYED THE PRIMITIVE-COMMUNAL SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHED THE SLAVE-HOLDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATION

Within the framework of the main types of social revolution, there are several varieties of these, connected with the historical specifics of the revolutionary process in different countries and different periods

VARIETIES OF SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS

BOURGEOIS-DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

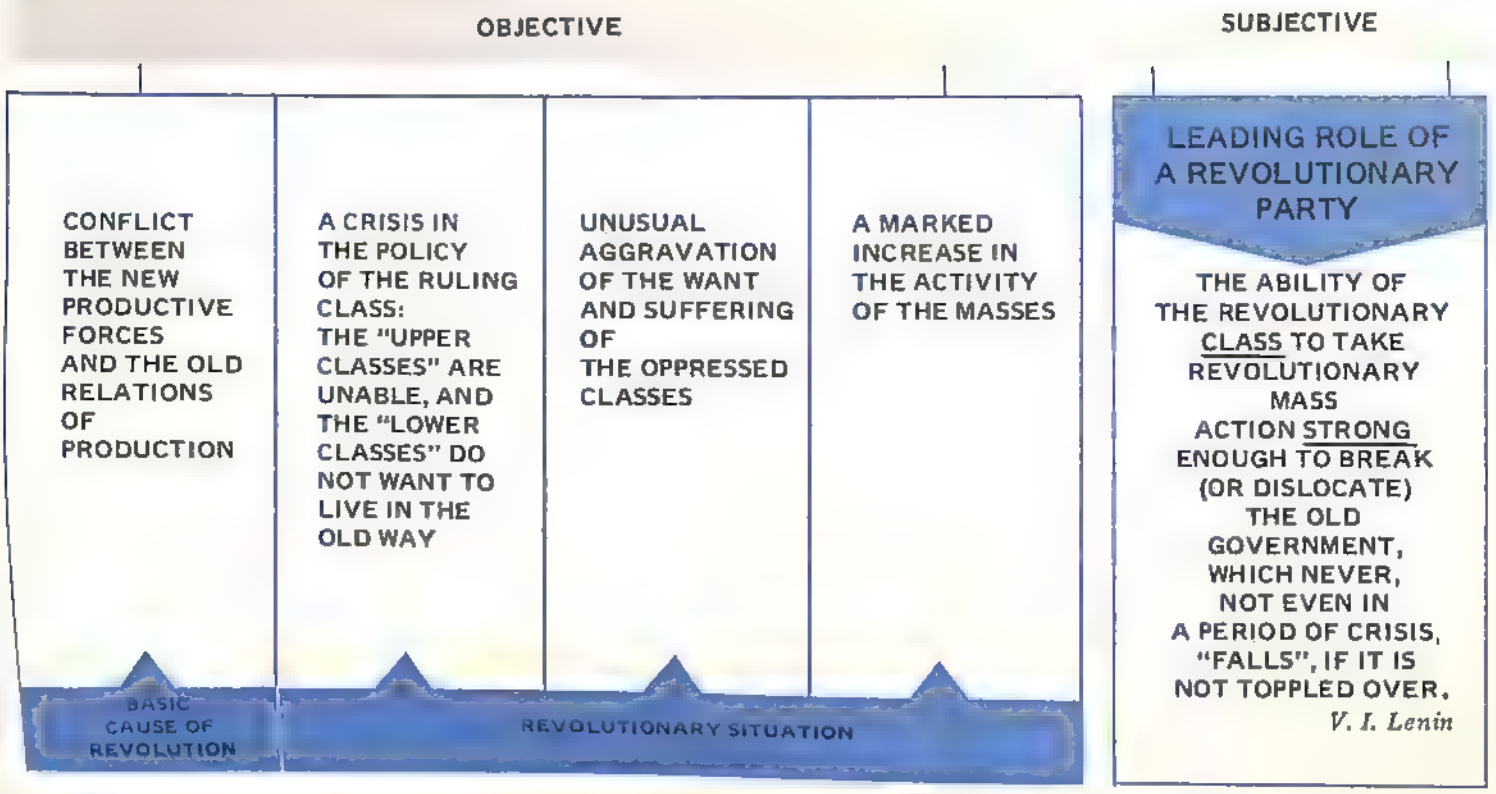
NATIONAL LIBERATION REVOLUTION

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION

It is only in an order of things in which there are no more classes and class antagonisms that social evolutions will cease to be political revolutions.

Karl Marx

CAUSES AND PREREQUISITES OF SOCIAL REVOLUTION



Revolution is impossible without a nation-wide crisis (affecting both the exploited and the exploiters).

V. I. Lenin

The passing of state power from one class to another is the first, the principal, the basic sign of a revolution.

V. I. Lenin

DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND OTHER SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS

In contrast to all earlier revolutions, the socialist revolution marks a transition from mankind's prehistory to its true history.

EARLIER REVOLUTIONS	SOCIALIST REVOLUTION
TRANSFERRED POWER FROM ONE EXPLOITER CLASS TO ANOTHER, WHICH PERFECTED THE MACHINERY OF STATE EXPLOITATION	TRANSFERS POWER TO THE WORKING CLASS, BREAKS DOWN THE BOURGEOIS STATE MACHINE, AND ESTABLISHES A DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT
REPLACED ONE FORM OF PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH ANOTHER	ABOLISHES PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REPLACES IT WITH SOCIAL PROPERTY
SUBSTITUTED ONE FORM OF EXPLOITATION FOR ANOTHER	ABOLISHES ALL FORMS OF EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION OF MAN BY MAN
ENDED IN THE SEIZURE OF POLITICAL POWER, BRINGING IT INTO CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NEW FORM OF PRIVATE PROPERTY	BEGINS WITH THE WINNING OF POWER. THE NEW STATE POWER CREATES A SOCIALIST ECONOMY, TRANSFORMS SOCIAL RELATIONS, CARRIES OUT A CULTURAL REVOLUTION
COULD NOT ENSURE LASTING UNITY OF A MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN VIEW OF THE ANTITHETICAL INTERESTS OF THE EXPLOITERS AND THE EXPLOITED	ENSURES A LASTING UNION OF FRIENDLY CLASSES AND ALL STRATA OF THE SOCIETY

All revolutions up to the present day have resulted in the displacement of one definite class rule by another; but all ruling classes up to now have been only small minorities in relation to the ruled mass of the people. One ruling minority was thus overthrown; another minority seized the helm of state in its stead and refashioned the state institutions to suit its own interests. This was on every occasion the minority group qualified and called to rule by the given degree of economic development; and just for that reason, and only for that reason, it happened that the ruled majority either participated in the revolution for the benefit of the former or else calmly acquiesced in it. But if we disregard the concrete content in each case, the common form of all these revolutions was that they were minority revolutions. Even when the majority took part, it did so—whether wittingly or not—only in the service of a minority...

Karl Marx

In bourgeois revolutions, the principal task of the mass of working people was to fulfil the negative or destructive work of abolishing feudalism, monarchy and medievalism. The positive or constructive work of organising the new society was carried out by the property-owning bourgeois minority of the population. And the latter carried out this task with relative ease, despite the resistance of the workers and the poor peasants, not only because the resistance of the people exploited by capital was then extremely weak, since they were scattered and uneducated, but also because the chief organising force of anarchically built capitalist society is the spontaneously growing and expanding national and international market.

In every socialist revolution, however ... the principal task of the proletariat, and of the poor peasants which it leads, is the positive or constructive work of setting up an extremely intricate and delicate system of new organisational relationships extending to the planned production and distribution of the goods required for the existence of tens of millions of people.

V. I. Lenin

PEACEFUL AND NON-PEACEFUL FORMS OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

The working class and its vanguard—the Marxist-Leninist parties—seek to carry out the socialist revolution by peaceful means. This agrees with the interests of the working class and the whole people. Relying on a majority of the people, the working class has an opportunity to defeat the reactionary, anti-popular forces, to win a strong majority in parliament, to turn parliament, which used to serve the class interests of the bourgeoisie, into an instrument serving the working people, to overcome the resistance of the reactionary forces, and create the necessary conditions for a peaceful socialist revolution, for a transfer of the basic means of production into the people's hands.

When the exploiter classes resort to violence against the people, a non-peaceful transition to socialism becomes necessary. The ruling classes do not give up power of their own accord. The intensity and forms of the class struggle in these conditions depend not so much on the proletariat as on the strength of the reactionary circles' resistance to the will of an overwhelming majority of the people, on whether these circles resort to violence at some stage of the struggle for socialism.

In each country, the real possiblity of peaceful or non-peaceful transition to socialism depends on the specific historical conditions.

REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION

Even if a revolution has started in a situation that seemed to be not very complicated, the development of the revolution itself always creates an exceptionally complicated situation. A revolution, a real, profound, a "people's" revolution, to use Marx's expression, is the incredibly complicated and painful process of the death of the old and birth of the new social order, or the mode of life of tens of millions of people. Revolution is a most intense, furious, desperate class struggle and civil war.

V. I. Lenin

The experience of the revolutionary movement shows that whenever there is a real threat to the domination of monopoly capital and its political henchmen, imperialism is prepared to trample on state sovereignty, on legality, to say nothing of humaneness. Slander, brainwashing of public opinion, economic blockade, sabotage, attempts to contrive hunger and economic dislocation, bribery and threats, terrorism, assassination of political leaders, fascist-style pogroms—such is the arsenal of present-day counter-revolution, which always acts in alliance with international imperialist reaction.

REVOLUTION AND REFORM

The concept "reform" is undoubtedly the opposite of the concept "revolution". Failure to remember this contrast, failure to remember the line that divides these two concepts, constantly leads to very serious mistakes in all historical discussions. But this contrast is not something absolute, this line is not something dead, but alive and changing, and one must be able to define it in each particular case.

V. I. Lenin

Reform is the name given to changes which leave the power in the country in the hands of the old ruling class... The class interests of bourgeois liberalism demand only reforms...

V. I. Lenin

Unlike the anarchists, the Marxists recognise struggle for reforms, i. e., for measures that improve the conditions of the working people without destroying the power of the ruling class. At the same time, however, the Marxists wage a most resolute struggle against the reformists, who, directly or indirectly, restrict the aims and activities of the working class to the winning of reforms. Reformism is bourgeois deception of the workers, who, despite individual improvements, will always remain wage-slaves, as long as there is the domination of capital.

V. I. Lenin

Chapter

It is man, real, living man who does all that, who possesses and fights ... History is nothing but the activity of man pursuing his aims.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

13

ROLE OF THE MASSES AND THE INDIVIDUAL IN HISTORY

THE PEOPLE AS THE ARCHITECTS OF HISTORY

Marxism differs from all other socialist theories in the remarkable way it combines complete scientific sobriety in the analysis of the objective state of affairs and the objective course of evolution with the most emphatic recognition of the importance of the revolutionary energy, revolutionary creative genius, and revolutionary initiative of the masses—and also, of course, of individuals, groups, organisations, and parties that are able to discover and achieve contact with one or another class.

V. I. Lenin

When ... it is a question of investigating the driving powers which—consciously or unconsciously, and indeed very often unconsciously—lie behind the motives of men who act in history and which constitute the real ultimate driving forces of history, then it is not a question so much of the motives of single individuals, however eminent, as of those motives which set in motion great masses, whole peoples, and again whole classes of the people in each people; and this, too, not momentarily, for the transient flaring up of a straw-fire which quickly dies down, but for a lasting action resulting in a great historical transformation.

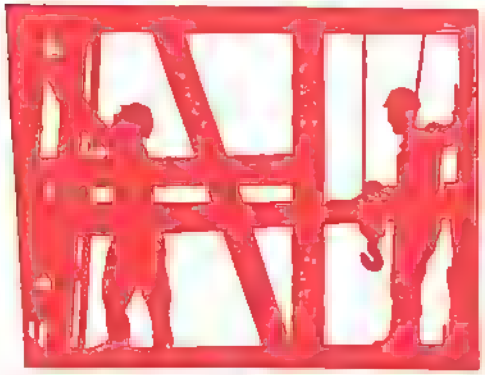
Frederick Engels

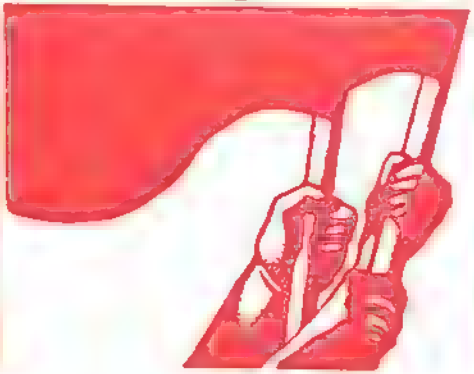
THE MASSES

THE SOCIETY'S PRODUCTIVE FORCE

THE MAIN MOTIVE FORCE OF SOCIAL REVOLUTION, OF POLITICAL AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, THE ARCHITECTS OF A NEW LIFE

CREATORS OF SPIRITUAL CULTURE





At no other time are the mass of the people in a position to come forward so actively as creators of a new social order, as at a time of revolution.

V. I. Lenin

The masses create all material values, without which life and development are impossible. By constantly improving the instruments of labour and their own labour skills, the masses develop the society's productive forces and necessitate the replacement of obsolete relations of production with new ones.

LAW OF THE MASSES' GROWING ROLE IN HISTORY

In the course of the society's progressive development, the masses play an ever more active role in the solution of social problems.

Together with the thoroughness of the historical action, the size of the mass whose action it is will therefore increase.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

IN ANTAGONISTIC FORMATIONS, THE WORKING PEOPLE'S CREATIVE INITIATIVE IS FETTERED BY WORK FOR THE EXPLOITERS. ONLY EMANCIPATED LABOUR ENABLES THE WORKING MASSES TO DISPLAY ALL THEIR CREATIVE ABILITIES.

IN THE EXPLOITIVE SOCIETY, THE WORKING MASSES' SOLE CONCERN IS MATERIAL WANT. ONLY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM THEY AWAKEN TO INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

THE INTELLECTUAL FORCES OF THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS ARE GROWING AND GAINING STRENGTH IN THE STRUGGLE TO OVERTHROW THE BOURGEOISIE.

V. I. Lenin

In antagonistic formations, the law of the masses' growing role in history operates spontaneously, as a general development tendency; under socialism, that law is being used by the communist and workers' parties in a conscious way.

Without drawing new sections of the people into social construction, without awakening to activity the broad masses hitherto asleep, there could be no question of any revolutionary change.

V. I. Lenin

The greater the scope and extent of historical events, the greater is the number of people participating in them, and, contrariwise, the more profound the change we wish to bring about, the more must we rouse an interest and an intelligent attitude towards it, and convince more millions and tens of millions of people that it is necessary. In the final analysis, the reason our revolution has left all other revolutions far behind is that through the Soviet form of government it has aroused tens of millions of people, formerly uninterested in state development, to take an active part in the work of building up the state.

V. I. Lenin

The growing role of the masses in our day is manifested in their active struggle for peace and disarmament, for national independence, democracy, socialism and communism.

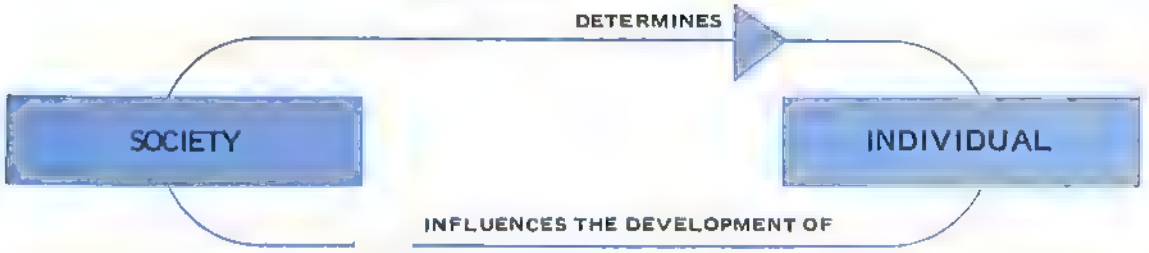
THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE SOCIETY

The essence of man is no abstraction inherent in each single individual. In its reality it is the ensemble of the social relations.

Karl Marx

Circumstances make men just as much as men make circumstances.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels



THE INDIVIDUAL IS A CONCRETE UNITY OF THE

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS TRAITS WHICH ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE GIVEN SOCIETY, THE EPOCH AS A WHOLE

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS SPECIFIC TRAITS WHICH ARE CHARACTERISTIC OF A DEFINITE COMMUNITY: PROFESSIONAL, SOCIO-CLASS, NATIONAL

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS HIS OWN, UNIQUE TRAITS, WHICH DISTINGUISH HIM FROM OTHER INDIVIDUALS

The individual is a concrete historical phenomenon, and in a class society, a class phenomenon.

The slave who is aware of his slavish condition and fights it is a revolutionary. The slave who is not aware of his slavish condition and vegetates in silent, unenlightened, and wordless slavery, is just a slave. The slave who drools when smugly describing the delights of slavish existence and who goes into ecstasies over his good and kind master is a grovelling boor.

V. I. Lenin

OPPOSITE SOCIAL TYPES
IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMATIONS
WITH ANTAGONISTIC CLASSES:

- THE SLAVE AND THE SLAVE-OWNER
- THE SERF AND THE FEUDAL LORD
- THE WORKER AND THE CAPITALIST

In the course of socialist transformations, the people themselves undergo a change, and new, socialist type of individuals emerge as active builders of communism.

ROLE OF GREAT PERSONALITIES IN HISTORY

A great man is great ... in his possession of traits which make him the most capable of serving his time's great social needs ... because he sees farther then others do and his desires are stronger than in others. He solves scientific problems raised by the previous course of society's intellectual development; he indicates the new social needs created by the previous development of social relations; he assumes the initiative in meeting those needs.

Georgi Plekhanov

A great personality cannot stop historical progress or alter its direction, but can markedly accelerate or slow down the course of events, altering or preventing some of these events.

The strength of a great personality lies in the strength of the classes and social groups whose interests that personality expresses and so enjoys their boundless confidence and support.

Chapter

14

SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

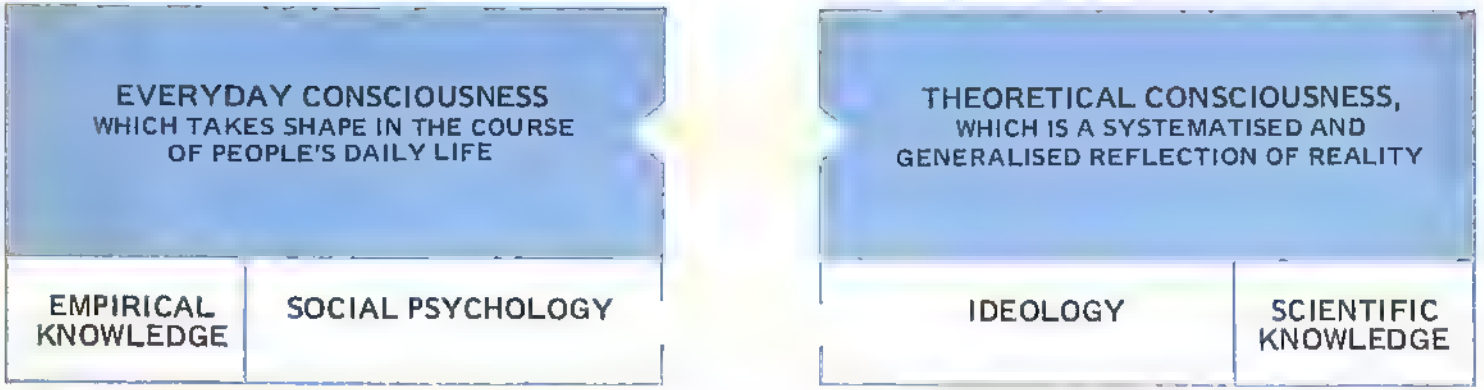
The materialist conception of history ... does not explain practice from the idea but explains the formation of ideas from material practice.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Social consciousness is an aggregation of all the ideas, theories, views, opinions, feelings, moods, habits and traditions that exist in the society and reflect the social being of its members, the material conditions of their life.

IN TERMS OF PROFUNDITY OF REFLECTION, SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS SUBDIVIDED INTO



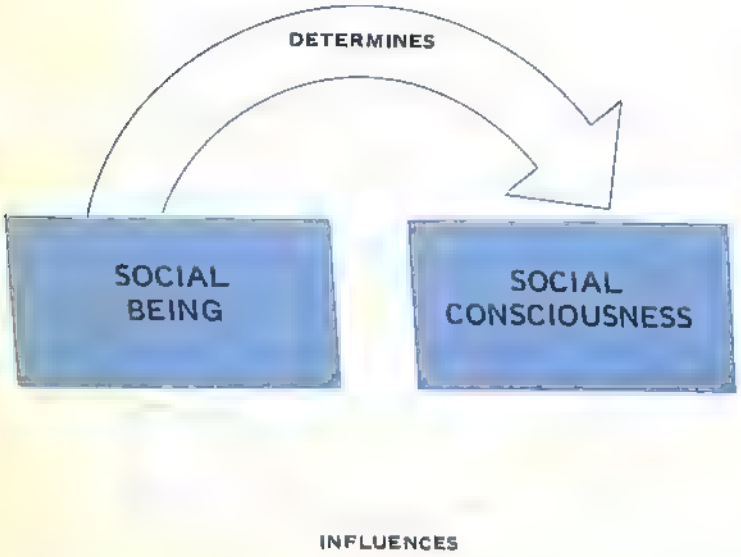
IN TERMS OF CONTENT AND MODES OF REFLECTION, SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS SUBDIVIDED INTO

POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS | LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS | MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS | AESTHETIC CONSCIOUSNESS | RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS | PHILOSOPHY | SCIENCE

SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS AS A REFLECTION OF SOCIAL BEING

Just as man's knowledge reflects nature (i.e., developing matter), which exists independently of him, so man's social knowledge (i.e., his various views and doctrines—philosophical, religious, political and so forth) reflects the economic system of society.

V. I. Lenin



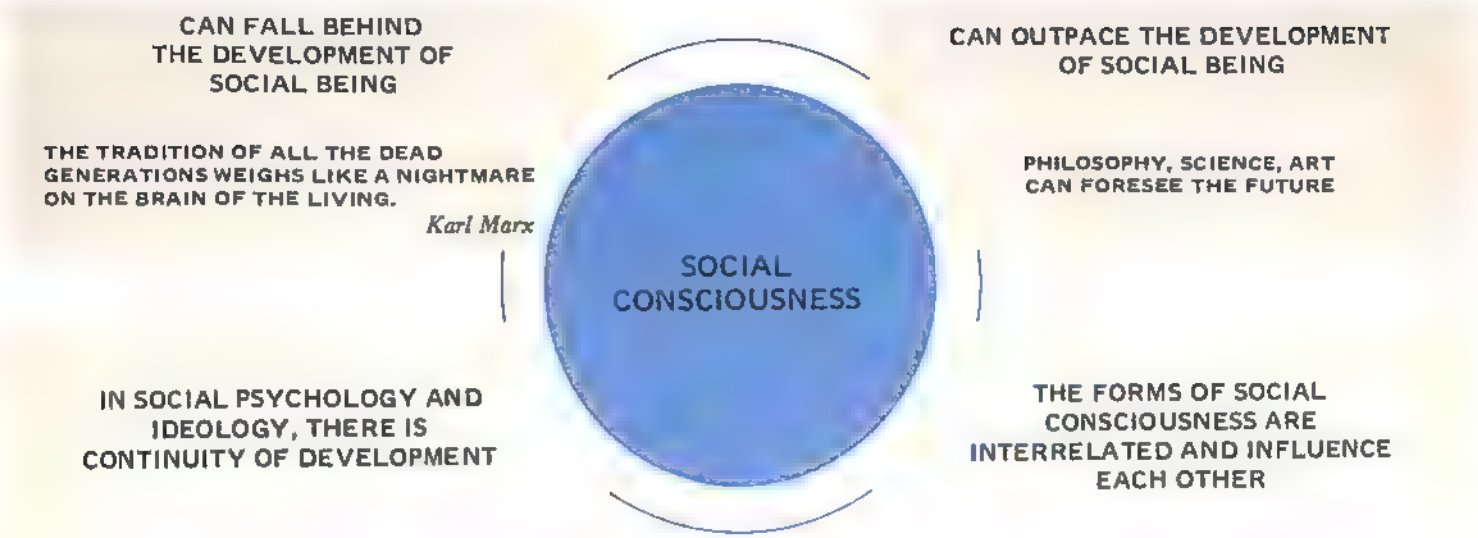
Political, legal, philosophical, religious, literary, artistic, etc., development is based on economic development. But all these react upon one another and also upon the economic basis.

Frederick Engels

The phantoms formed in the brains of men are also, necessarily, sublimates of their material life-process, which is empirically verifiable and bound to material premises. Morality, religion, metaphysics, and all the rest of ideology as well as the forms of consciousness corresponding to these, thus no longer retain the semblance of independence. They have no history, no development; but men, developing their material production and their material intercourse, alter, along with this their actual world, also their thinking and the products of their thinking. It is not consciousness that determines life, but life that determines consciousness.

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS



PROGRESSIVE	REACTIONARY
MARXISM HAS PRESERVED AND DEVELOPED ALL THE VALUABLE IDEAS OF PAST EPOCHS	THE IDEOLOGUES OF OUTGOING CLASSES REVIVE OBSOLETE IDEAS OF PAST EPOCHS

IN A POSITIVE WAY	IN A NEGATIVE WAY
MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHY PROMOTES THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE, ART AND ETHICS	IDEALIST PHILOSOPHY SLOWS DOWN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE, SUBJUGATES ART AND ETHICS

Theory also becomes a material force as soon as it has gripped the masses.

Karl Marx

THE IDEAS OF PROGRESSIVE CLASSES ARE A GREAT TRANSFORMING FORCE

Communist ideology is the most humane ideology. Its ideals are truly humane relations among individuals and peoples, humanity's liberation from the threat of destructive wars, and lasting universal peace.

THE THEORIES OF REACTIONARY CLASSES OBSTRUCT THE SOCIETY'S DEVELOPMENT

The political and economic theories, philosophy and sociology, ethics and aesthetics of the present-day bourgeoisie seek to substantiate monopoly rule, to justify exploitation, eulogise militarism and war, vindicate colonialism and racism, and fan hostility and hatred among peoples.

CLASS NATURE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN ANTAGONISTIC FORMATIONS

The society is dominated by the ideology of the economically dominant class, the class which is in power and which has at its disposal the material instruments of ideological influence (schools, universities, mass media, etc.).

The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas: i.e., the class which is the ruling material force of society is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, consequently also controls the means of mental production, so that the ideas of those who lack the means of mental production are on the whole subject to it. The ruling ideas are nothing more than the ideal expression of the dominant material relations, the dominant material relations grasped as ideas; hence of the relations which make the one class the ruling one, therefore, the ideas of its dominance... The existence of revolutionary ideas in a particular period presupposes the existence of a revolutionary class...

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

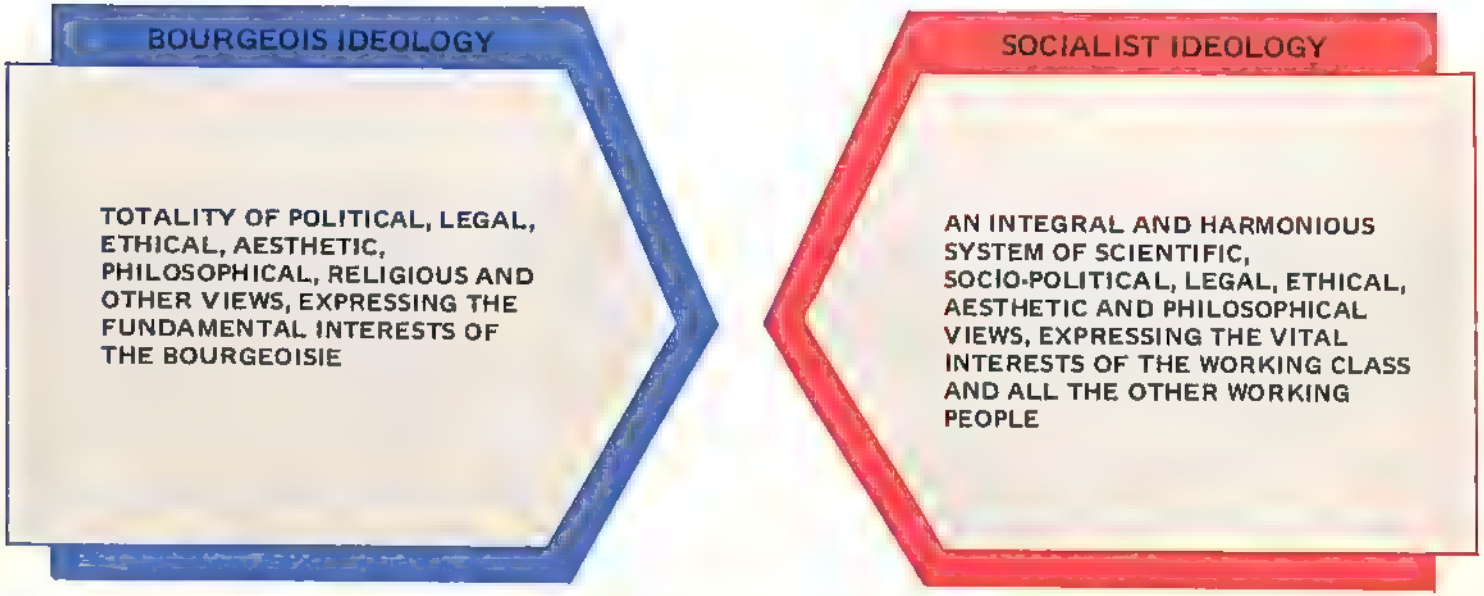
The interests, views and concerns of the exploiters and the exploited are different, just as their living conditions. Lenin wrote that the exploitive society is based on a principle:
rob or be robbed; work for others or make others work for you; be a slave-owner or a slave. Naturally, people brought up in such a society assimilate with their mother's milk, one might say, the psychology, the habit, the concept which says: you are either a slave-owner or a slave, or else, a small owner, a petty employee, a petty official, or an intellectual—in short, a man who is concerned only with himself, and does not care a rap for anybody else.

V. I. Lenin

ANTITHESIS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY

The only choice is—either bourgeois or socialist ideology. There is no middle course (for mankind has not created a "third" ideology, and, moreover, in a society torn by class antagonisms there can never be a non-class or an above-class ideology). Hence, to belittle the socialist ideology in any way, to turn aside from it in the slightest degree means to strengthen bourgeois ideology.

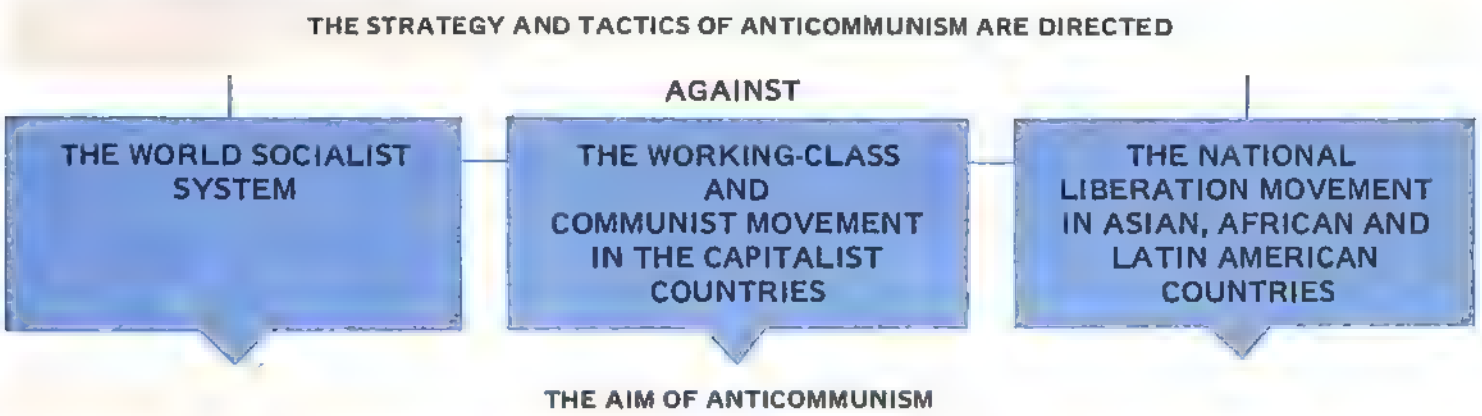
V. I. Lenin



In the modern world, there is a bitter struggle between the two ideologies: communist and bourgeois. That struggle reflects the historical process of transition from capitalism to socialism.

STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF ANTICOMMUNISM

Anticommunism is the main ideological and political instrument of the imperialist and other reactionary forces.



FORMS AND METHODS OF ANTICOMMUNISM

BELLICOSE, NEO-FASCIST

PSEUDO-DEMOCRATIC, BOURGEOIS-LIBERAL

PSEUDO-MARXIST, REVISIONIST

EXPORT OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION

PERSECUTION OF PROGRESSIVE LEADERS

AROUSING OF NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS STRIFE

EFFORTS TO DISUNITE THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

FORMS AND METHODS OF ANTICOMMUNISM

FALSIFICATION OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST DOCTRINE

SLANDER OF SOCIALISM

DISTORTION OF THE GOALS AND POLICY OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

SLANDER OF PROGRESSIVE TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

When the bourgeoisie's ideological influence on the workers declines, is undermined or weakened, the bourgeoisie everywhere and always resorts to the most outrageous lies and slander.

V. I. Lenin

POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Political consciousness takes shape with the emergence of classes, nations and states as the attitude to one's own class and other classes, to the state and state power, to other states and nations.

POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

LEVELS

PSYCHOLOGICAL	IDEOLOGICAL
UNSYSTEMATISED VIEWS, MOODS AND FEELINGS OF A CLASS (SOLIDARITY, HATRED, ETC.), WHICH ARISE SPONTANEOUSLY IN THE COURSE OF PRACTICAL ACTIVITY	THEORETICAL EXPRESSION OF THE VIEWS OF A DEFINITE CLASS ON THE POLITICAL ORGANISATION OF THE SOCIETY, ON THE FORMS OF THE STATE AND STATE POWER, ON RELATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS CLASSES AND SOCIAL GROUPS, ON THEIR ROLE IN THE SOCIETY'S LIFE, ON THE RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES AND NATIONS, ETC.

There can be no political education except through political struggle and political action.

V. I. Lenin

LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS

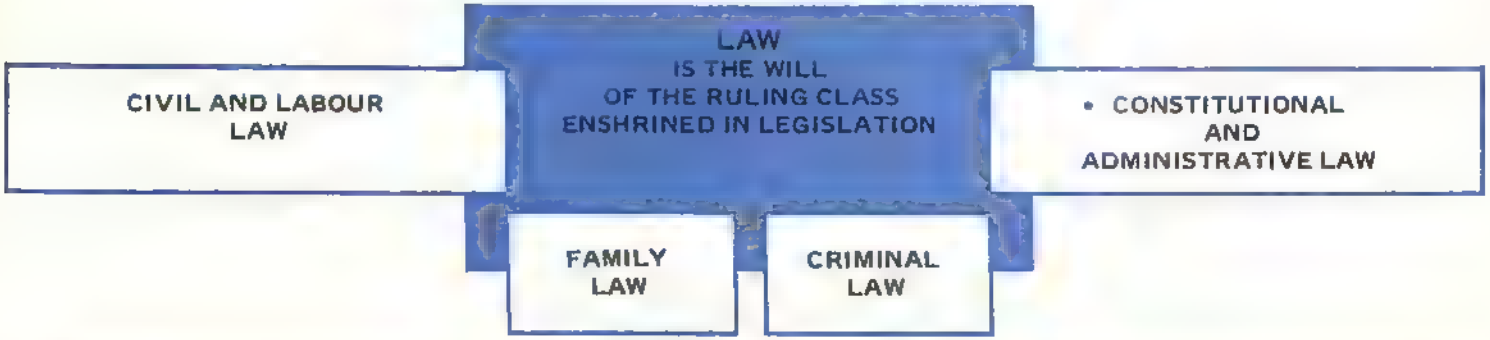
Legal consciousness is the totality of views and ideas expressing the attitude of individuals, social groups and classes to law and legality.

IN ANTAGONISTIC FORMATIONS, EACH CLASS HAS ITS OWN VIEWS OF LAW

FOR THE BOURGEOISIE, THE STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE OTHER WORKING PEOPLE FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND TO ELIMINATE EXPLOITATION IS A BREACH OF LAW AND ORDER

FOR THE WORKING CLASS, THE STRUGGLE FOR A NEW SOCIAL SYSTEM WITHOUT EXPLOITATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS A JUST AND LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE

Law is a system of generally binding social norms established by the state and guaranteed by state measures, including coercion.



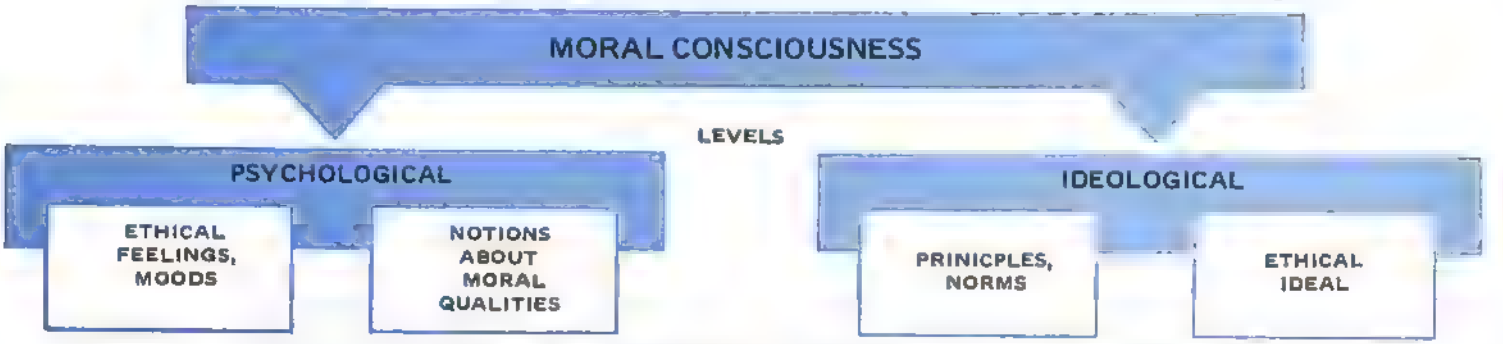
INTERNATIONAL LAW—NORMS REGULATING RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES

MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Moral consciousness reflects the social being of people, the historically changing and developing moral relations between them.

Men, consciously or unconsciously, derive their ethical ideas in the last resort from the practical relations on which their class position is based—from the economic relations in which they carry on production and exchange.

Frederick Engels



Morality is the rules of behaviour by which people are guided in their relations with each other and with the society. Morality rests on the individual's world outlook and public opinion.

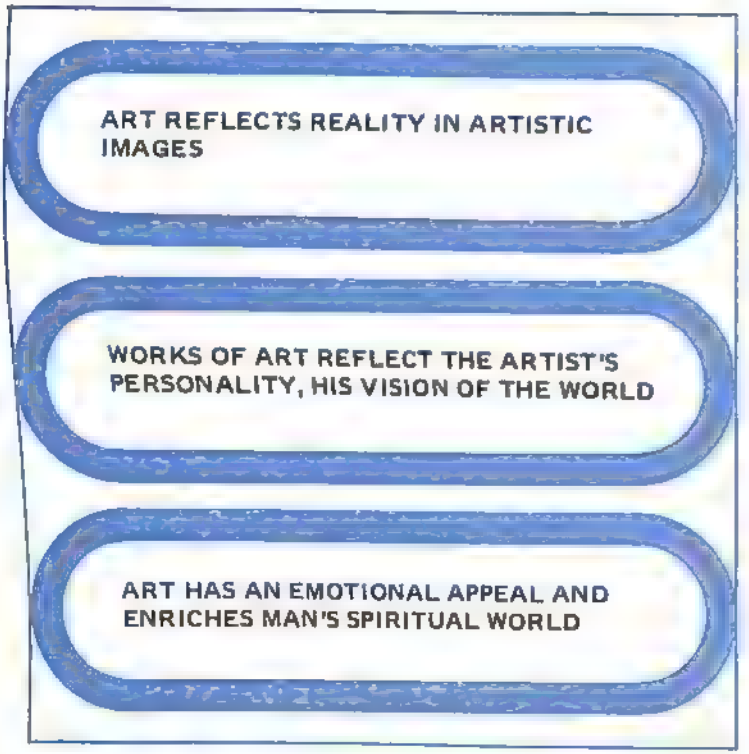
The content of moral categories changes with the society's development and is interpreted in different ways by the exploiter and the exploited classes.

AESTHETIC CONSCIOUSNESS

Art is an integral element of the society's material and spiritual culture, a form of social consciousness, and an activity aimed at the aesthetic assimilation of reality.

In creating a world of objects by his practical activity, in his work upon inorganic nature, man proves himself a conscious species-being... Man therefore also forms objects in accordance with the laws of beauty.

Karl Marx



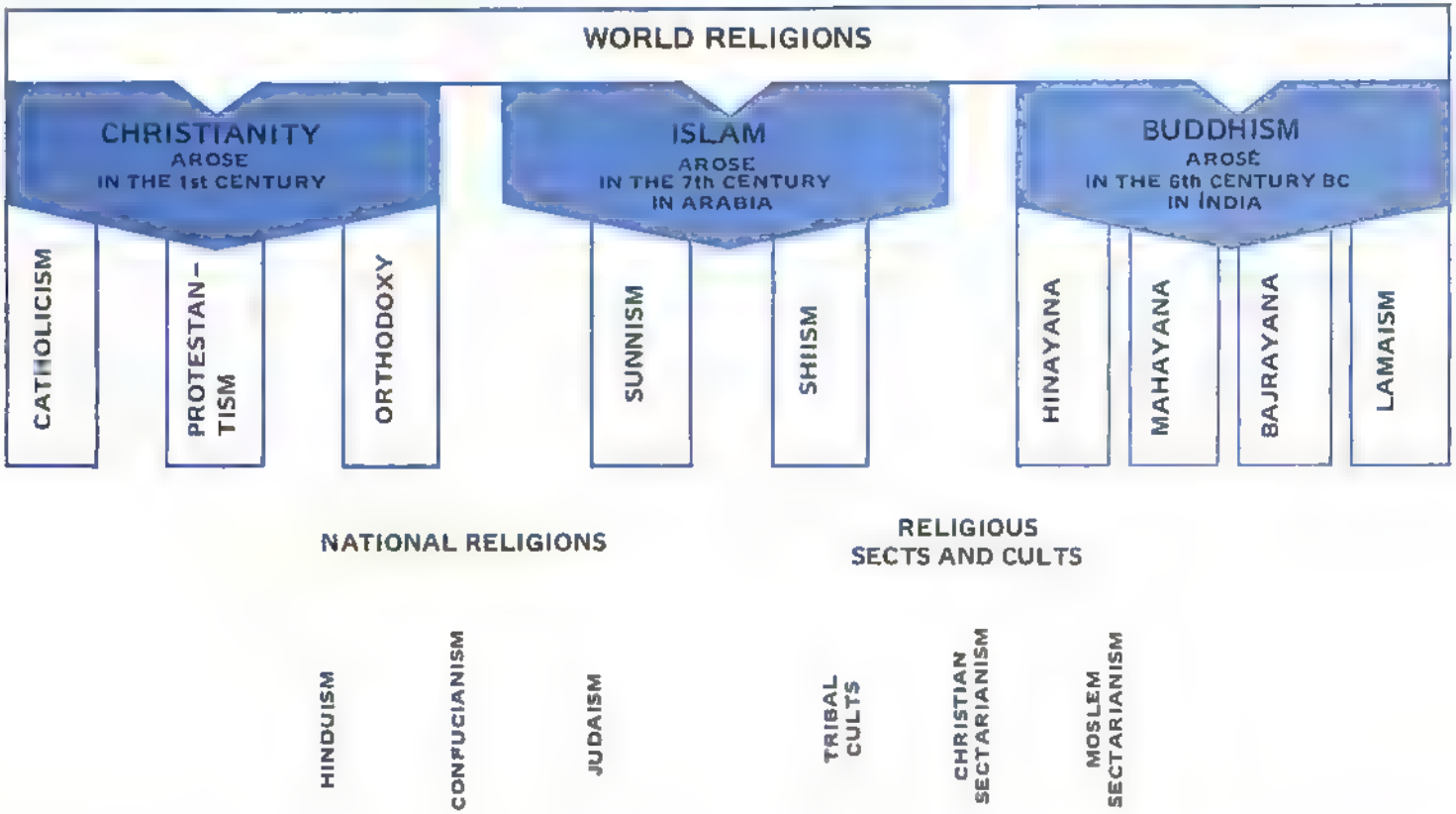
RELIGIOUS CONSCIOUSNESS

All religion ... is nothing but the fantastic reflection in men's minds of those external forces which control their daily life.

Frederick Engels

Political protests in religious guise are common to all nations at a certain stage of their development.

V. I. Lenin



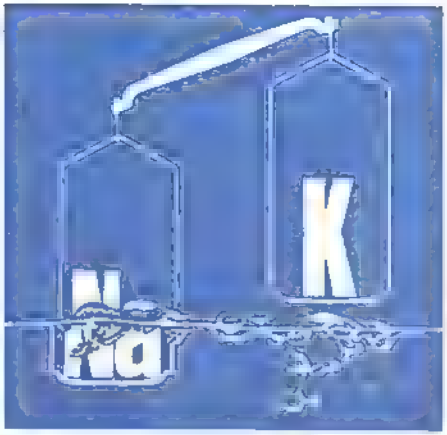
SCIENCE

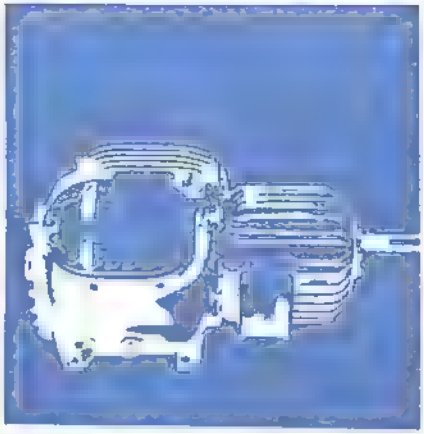
A system of developing knowledge, whose truth is confirmed by social practice

A FORM OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS
REFLECTING THE WORLD IN CONCEPTS AND LAWS

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
AIMED AT STUDYING THE UNIFORMITIES OF NATURE, OF THE SOCIETY AND THINKING

A PRACTICAL FORCE
DIRECTED AT TRANSFORMING NATURE AND THE SOCIETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COGNISED LAWS





The development of science, that ideal and at the same time practical wealth, is only an aspect, a form of the development of man's productive forces, i.e. of wealth.

Karl Marx

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